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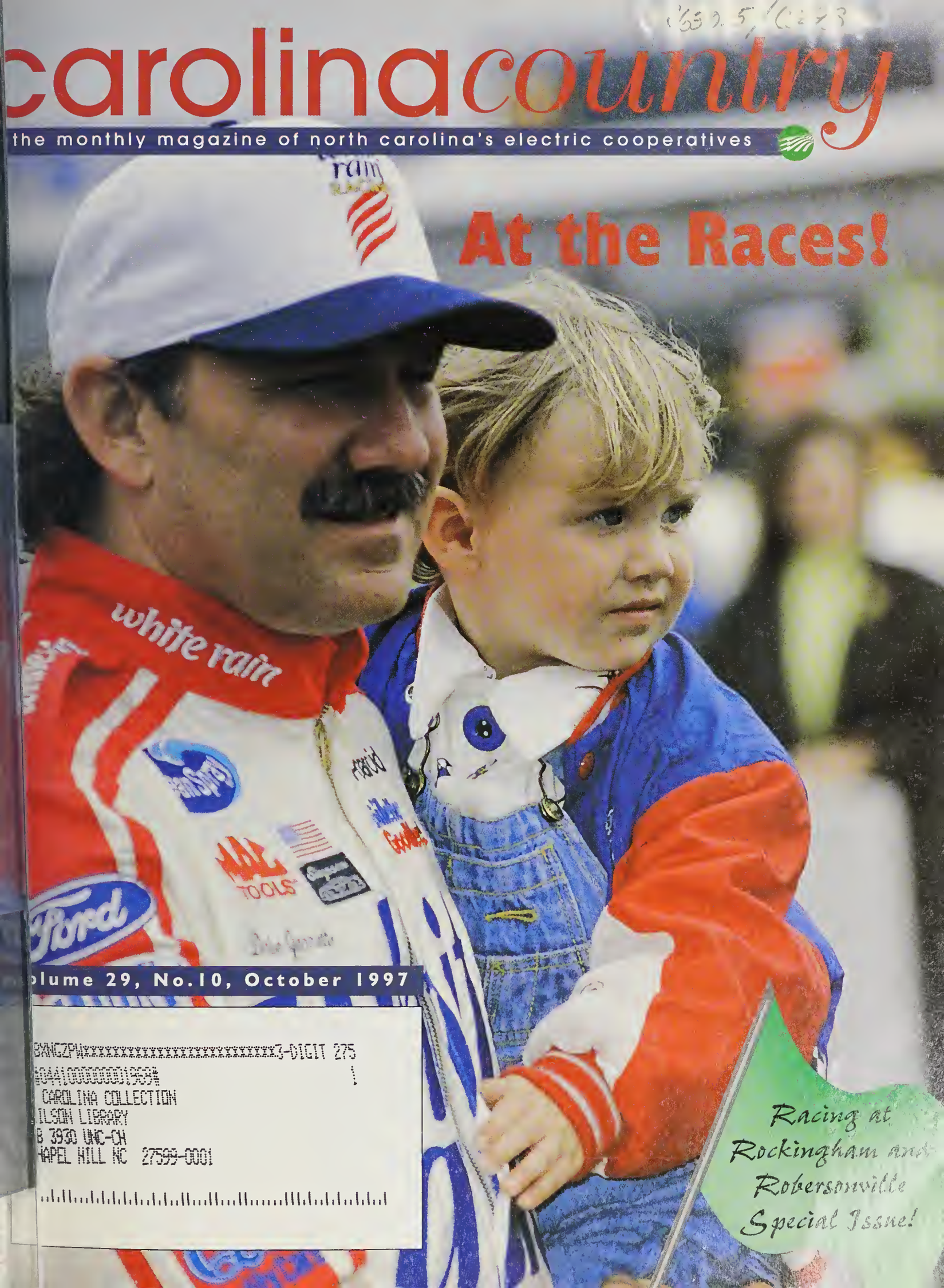
carolina country

the monthly magazine of north carolina's electric cooperatives



At the Races!

olume 29, No.10, October 1997

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Racing at Rockingham and Robersonville Special Issue!

An Important Announcement to North Carolina Homeowners with Equity . . . .

What Would You Do With An Extra $3,600 to $12,000 per year?

How to Get a Fast Mortgage Loan To Pay Off All Your Bills**

(Even If You've Been Turned Down By A Bank Or Mortgage Company)

Rockingham, N.C. - Ray and Becky were frustrated. They'd bought the house 12 years ago and it was five years old when they moved in. Becky laughed out loud when she thought back to that time. Back then it seemed so big and beautiful. But now, 12 years and 3 kids later, the house felt small and run down. The house needed a new roof and her two youngest girls, Emily and Katie, were doubling up in the small 10 x 12 bedroom.

Five years ago, Ray and Becky had a contractor come and talk to them about a new addition. Becky remembered how excited she and Ray both were. They even paid to have the plans drawn up. But that was the year before Ray lost his job at the plant. She poured herself another cup of coffee and recalled how depressed they both were. It was over a year before he got another job. And during that time, they got behind on everything.

No Summer Vacation

They were so strapped for money one summer, they couldn't even take Emily and Katie to the beach for a few days for their annual vacation. Sure they finally got all caught up when Ray went back to work, it took them two years and by that time it had ruined their previously perfect credit record, it was a vicious cycle. You know, getting paid on Friday, sitting down on Saturday to pay bills and running out of money before all the bills are paid.

"I Hit A Brick Wall"

After they got caught up they tried again to borrow the money for the addition. First they got turned down by the local bank, then a mortgage company in town rejected them. They just kept hitting the same brick wall. Even though Ray had gone back to work in another carpet mill making MORE money, the late payments that showed up on his credit reports scared the local banks and mortgage companies away. Ray felt like he was working JUST to pay his monthly bills and doing nothing for himself, Becky or the kids. Then he ran into Harvest Mortgage Company. Harvest helped him get a loan to pay off all his bills and consolidate everything into one single payment that was $358 lower than he had been making. That saved him a whopping $4,296 per year, TAX FREE. In the first year, that was enough money to close in the back porch, AND enough left over for new bikes for the kids.

Home Equity is the Key

Carole Eskew, Sr., V.P.

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(No singlewides, please)

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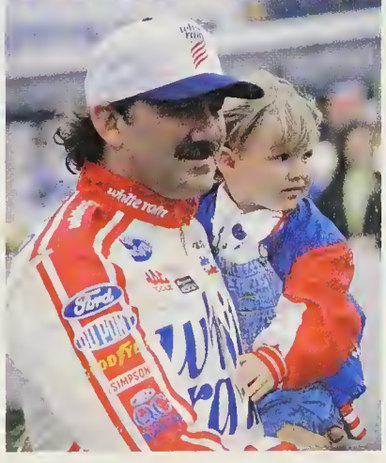

On the Cover

North Carolina's own Dale Jarrett with his son Zachery before the Busch Grand National Goodwrench 200 race at Rockingham last February. Dale's White Rain Ford finished second that day. The next day he and his Quality Care/Ford Credit Ford started third in the Winston Cup Series Goodwrench 400 and finished 2.43 seconds behind winner and NASCAR points leader Jeff Gordon. (Photo by Michael E.C. Gery)

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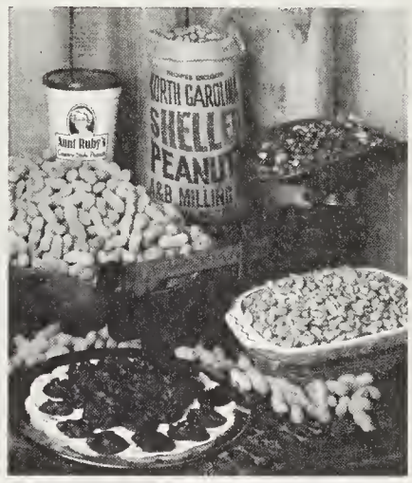

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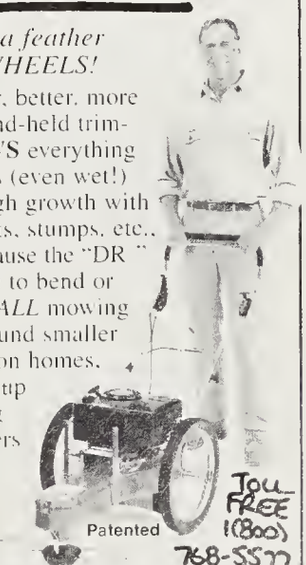

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Yes, we can

by Allen F. Holt

Jane Bryant Quinn has been quoted many times as saying, "Watch out, as marketing of electricity becomes North America's most costly and risky business. Not a soul knows how it will turn out."

Not a soul. These words will reverberate throughout the months and years to come as we find out what "not a soul" knows. Despite all the protestations and the pleas not to worry, "because competition will take care of all the problems," this is a very complex and loaded issue with consequences not even dreamed of by the most forward of thinkers.

Mr. Holt was invited to speak at a Sept. 5 hearing before the Subcommittee on Energy and Power, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Commerce. Following is an excerpt of his testimony.

My view is that retail competition will benefit a few large industrial and commercial users of electricity and some "now you see them – now you don't" suppliers of electricity. Full retail competition may be to the detriment of the residential and small commercial consumers like the members of Randolph EMC.

The board of directors at Randolph EMC has been able to reduce rates to our members both this year and last year. We expect further rate reductions in the near future. This has been possible because of the wholesale deregulation of generation that was legislated in the Energy Policies Act of 1992. I believe if the industry is left alone, all end users of electricity will see their rates reduced without being subjected to telephone calls at the dinner hour by hucksters peddling electricity.

I have had a recent conversion that deals neither with computers nor religion. It deals with the definition of the business that utilities in general and rural electric cooperatives specifically are in or should be in.

Up until the time that retail competition became a topic of interest, I was a firm believer that electric cooperatives should stick to their knitting and be the best providers of energy and electric service that they could be. There was no need to get into the satellite TV business, the telephone business or the insurance business. But the minute I heard of the prospect that people may be buying their electric energy at the Seven Eleven Store, I began to think about how a rural electric cooperative can best serve those members who have come to depend on it over the years. It seemed the only way we could do that was to continue to give our members the best service we possibly could at the best price we possibly could, to seek ways to spread the cost of doing business for these members, and to find ways to save them money outside the traditional boundaries of the electric utility industry. We have started doing this.

We surveyed our membership to find out what services they felt were not available to them on a reasonable, cost-effective basis in the rural areas in which they live. Based on the results of that survey we have partnered with a marketing firm to give our members what they indicated they need. They showed a high interest in health care issues and in long distance telephone services. Through this marketing partner and others, we are now offering discounted health insurance, satellite TV service and a very low rate on long distance telephone service. We did this for a number of reasons – to provide needed services to our members, to save our members money and to make them more aware of the cooperative's value to them.

Today's laws in some states limit the business activities that rural electric cooperatives can enter into. This impedes co-ops from becoming directly involved and necessitates the need for partners. As there are new market entrants into the utility market, all utilities, regardless of type, need to be able to participate in a wider service market place on behalf of their consumers.

I believe that, as the market place develops and laws are changed to give us more leeway as to what business activities we can conduct, we will find other services that we can offer to our members: electrical contracting services, heating and air conditioning installation and servicing, appliance sales and repairs, local telephone service, cable TV service, financial services, propane service and bulk purchasing on any number of consumer goods that our members need.

Electric cooperatives also may assume a greater role in the distribution of electricity to customers beyond our current membership. I can foresee the time when some utilities may opt out of the re-regulated distribution business, preferring to focus on their market niches like generation or transmission. Rural electric cooperatives would then be in a position to do what we have always done best: to provide unexcelled distribution service.

Allen F. Holt is executive vice president and general manager of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation, which serves 25,000 consumer-members in Randolph, Montgomery, Moore, Chatham and Alamance counties.

News from Dellview

As we prepared to publish our issue on North Carolina's small towns [September 1997], Charles G. Joyner of Hendersonville, the master of our own "Joyner's Corner" and its occasional "Southern Exposure" pieces, sent us the following news from Dellview.

The town of Dellview in Gaston County is said to be the smallest incorporated town in the world. Just 500 yards square, with a population of 10 in 1995, it was originally the farm of brothers A.T. and J. Henry Dellinger.

The brothers incorporated the town in 1924 to give themselves authority to get rid of stray dogs that were killing their chickens. Van Dellinger, a Cherryville optometrist and a grandson of one of the founding fathers, is the town's mayor. If his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Robert "Smokey" Dellinger, and other relatives continue to vote for him, he will have the job as long as he is willing to accept it.

Cris and Vickie Spurling, whose home is partially in Dellview, say they would vote for him if they could, but they aren't eligible to vote. Their bedroom is outside the town limit.

Dellview is on Highway 150 just west of Cherryville in the most northwestern part of Gaston County.

Young historian begins big research project

Nathan Price, age 9, a 4th grade student at Seagrove Elementary in Asheboro, is looking for historical information about North Carolina counties. Throughout the school year, he will be compiling histories of each county in the state. His mom, Laura Price, a member of Randolph EMC in Asheboro, asked if readers can send copies of news clippings, articles, photos –anything that helps tell the history of your county.

Nathan also will submit copies of information he receives to the Asheboro public library to be preserved.

The address is Nathan Price, 2567 Old Cox Rd., Asheboro NC 27203.

Smart boy

Carol Loy of Lexington called to thank us for publishing the 1997 North Carolina Touring Guide [May 1997]. At the time, her grandson was making the "North Carolina book" for his class. "This is just what he needs," she said.

It's possible that Aaron Loy's project was the best submitted in Mrs. Smith's 4th grade class at Sheets Memorial Christian School.

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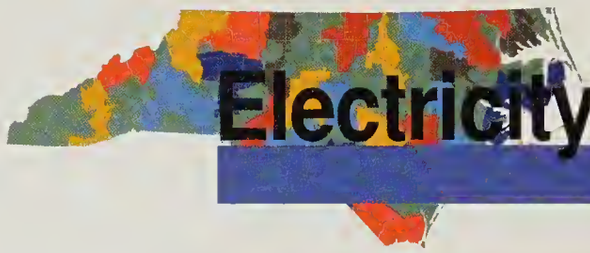


Electricity Restructuring

Should North Carolina change the utility industry right now?

Changing the structure of the electric utility industry in North Carolina is "beyond the 'if' stage," said U.S. Rep. Richard Burr. "We are now to the point of working on the 'when' and 'how.'"

The Republican from the 5th Congressional District addressed more than 600 people at a "power summit" held Sept. 3 in his hometown of Winston-Salem. Chaired by Burr, the meeting drew more participation than any similar forum conducted in the U.S. to date, according to speakers who had attended several during the past year. North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation was a co-sponsor of the forum.

Because this October issue of Carolina Country was headed to the press during the conference, the magazine's full report of it will be in this space next month.

In general, however, issues important to North Carolina's electric cooperatives emerged loud and clear during the conference. Burr, who is a member of the House committee that will consider federal legislation governing electric utilities emphasized some of the cooperatives' concerns early on. "We must assure access, affordability and reliability," he said in his opening remarks. "We must make sure that when we go to cut on the light switch, the light goes on. We must assure the tobacco grower a continuous supply of power to the bulk barn so that circulating fan works when it needs to work. We must assure seniors and their families that their stoves will work and their lights will go on."

Discussion points included the role of big industry, benefits of competition in a heretofore government-regulated industry, investments utilities already have made in their generation and distribution systems, the schedule of implementing full consumer choice in power suppliers, roles of the North Carolina Utilities Commission and state and federal governments, pending North Carolina legislation, experiences in other states, environmental concerns, and emerging technologies.

Participants included five North Carolina Congressmen, members of the N.C. Utilities Commission, representatives of the state and federal energy departments, as well as utility executives, power marketers, suppliers, lobbying groups and consumer advocates.

Power marketing firms and other advocates for opening the electricity business to full retail competition urged legislators to allow competition "right now." But Congressman Howard Coble of Greensboro, 6th District Republican, suggested moving more cautiously. He framed his view on the timing of restructuring within this story that he said country-blue grass music legend Lester Flatt told hi (somewhat paraphrased here).

> Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs and their band were on a concert tour, and they had a show in a town somewhere in Ohio. They arrived in the town about four hours ahead of schedule.
>
> Lester said, Me and Paul — who was Paul Warren, the fiddler – went out to look around the town some.
>
> When we got near the center of town we saw something was going on. There was a crowd there of maybe 275 or 300 people. When we got closer we saw it was a sidewalk preacher conducting a service right there. By the time we got to it he was pointing to a man a'sayin, "Brother, how about you? You want to go to heaven?"
>
> And the man said, "Yes, preacher, I do."
>
> And the preacher said, "Well, come on up here with me, then."
>
> And then the preacher turned to a woman in the crowd and said, "How about you, sister, you want to go to heaven?"
>
> And she said, "I certainly do, preacher."
>
> "Well," preacher says, "Come on up here with us."
>
> Then he looked at old Paul and said, "And you, sir, do you want to go to heaven?"
>
> And Paul said, "No, preacher, I do not."
>
> And the preacher said, "You don't! Why not, son? You don't want to go to heaven when you die?"
>
> And Paul said, "When I die? I thought you was gettin' up a crowd to go right now."

BUFFER

Business United For Fair Electric Rates

Commentary: Business owner says deregulation raises questions

Promises that electricity deregulation will produce double-digit rate savings and reliable service should be read with healthy skepticism. And the promises don't allow for "stranded costs," transmission and distribution fees, all of which will be paid by consumers, directly or indirectly.

Fortunately, the General Assembly has decided not to rush into deregulation and will study the issue before making any recommendations for changing a system that has served us well for over 50 years. Some questions they will need to answer:

- Who will pay off N.C., municipal utilities' $6 billion debt?
- Can we trust promises of reliability when, in carefully controlled Illinois and New York deregulation pilot programs, out-of-state markets failed to deliver promised electric power on numerous times?
- Will competition affect how quickly power is restored after a natural disaster?
- Who will pay off the billions of dollars in stranded costs?
- How will consumers and small businesses compete with industrial users to assure fair rates?
- How much will current state and local tax revenues be reduced? Who will pay the shortfall?
- Who do you call when the power goes out and how much will it cost to get it turned back on?
- What are the hidden costs of electricity deregulation and who will pay?

As an independent business owner, my natural inclination is to support electricity deregulation. Other instincts tell me our state needs to take a longer view. For most of us, a slight drop in electricity reliability will wipe out any rate savings. Unanswered questions and resolved details are why North Carolina's Home Builders and Realtors, several small business organizations and many individuals have joined together in opposing a rush to deregulation. For most of us the upside potential is marginal and the downside risk is bottomless.

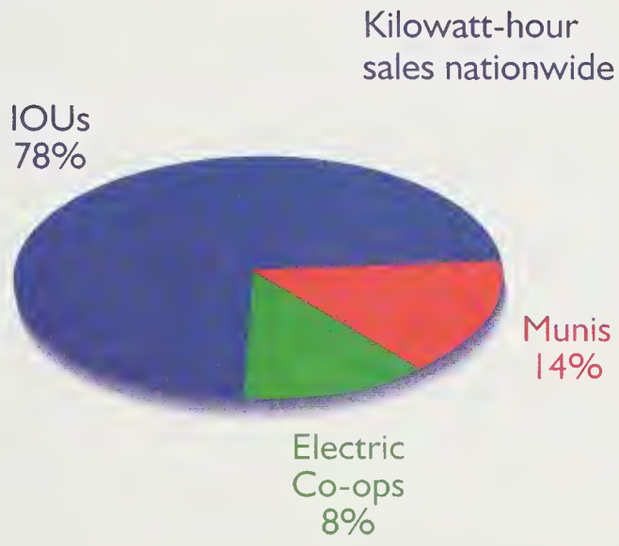
Henry C. Knight
Raleigh
The writer, president of Knight Electronics, is chair of BUFFER *(Business United For Fair Electric Rates).*

Co-ops own 50% of lines, but they have only 8% of kwh sales

While America's electric cooperatives own more than one-half of the electric distribution lines in the country, covering 80 percent of the U.S. landmass, they have just 8 percent of kilowatt-hour (kwh) sales.

The reason for this paradox is actually quite simple: Electric co-ops often serve areas with low population densities. This means co-ops have far fewer consumers per mile of line than do investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and publicly owned municipals (munis). In addition, the average co-op's member base is nearly two-thirds residential and farm while the customer base of the average IOU and muni is composed primarily of large-load commercial and industrial users.

These various factors explain why co-ops have higher operating costs on a per capita basis and, sometimes, higher rates than other electric utilities.



Call for free guides to buying appliances

The Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Consumer Protection has published three guides intended to help consumers purchase home appliances. The brochures are:

- "Buying an Energy-Smart Appliance"
- "EnergyGuide to Major Home Appliances"
- "EnergyGuide to Home Heating and Cooling"

The guides offer basic information about making purchases based on the familiar, yellow "EnergyGuide" labels placed on major appliances.

The brochures are available free from EnergyGuide, Federal Trade Commission, Room 130, 6th St. and Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 29580. Phone (202) 326-2222 or (for the hearing impaired) (202) 326-2502.

Text of these guides and 160 others is available through the FTC's "Consumerline" on the Internet at www.ftc.gov

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Vinegar Can Be Used For WHAT?

CHICAGO (Special) - Research from centers around the world report what ancient healers knew thousands of years ago -- *that vinegar is the wonder elixir for a healthier life.*

Since ancient times a daily dose of apple cider vinegar has been taken to control appetite and maintain well-being.

Even Japan's feared Samurai warriors of years ago relied on a vinegar tonic for strength and power. A tonic you can make in your kitchen.

Today, countless reports and scientific studies praise the curative and preventive powers of vinegar as part of our daily diet.

And now after long research, for the first time, over 300 vinegar super-healing home remedies and recipes have been gathered by noted natural health author Emily Thacker in her exclusive new book, *"The Vinegar Book."*

It's the most complete collection since the discovery of vinegar 10,000 years ago.

You'll learn how to control your appetite to lose weight with a mealtime vinegar cocktail.

Find trusted home remedies to beat colds, ease painful arthritis, and other joint diseases.

Vinegar is nature's own drug-free anti-inflammatory.

Scientific tests show organic vinegar is a natural storehouse of vitamins and minerals, including beta carotene -- over 93 different components -- to fight what ails you.

More than 70 different research studies have verified that *beta carotene lowers the risk of getting cancer and it boosts the body's immune system.*

When fresh apples are allowed to ferment organically, the result is a vinegar that contains natural sediment with pectin, trace minerals, beneficial bacteria and enzymes.

And pectin helps your body reduce cholesterol levels to lower the risk of cardiovascular disease.

"The Vinegar Book" will amaze and delight you with 308 natural ways to enrich your personal life and home. Time-honored folk remedies that show step by step how to mix vinegar with other kitchen staples to:

- Improve your metabolism
- Aid digestion
- Help lower cholesterol
- Uses for middle ear problems
- Condition problem skin
- Fight age and liver spots
- Gain soft, radiant skin
- Amazing hair treatments
- Relieve nighttime leg cramps
- Soothe sprained muscles
- Fight osteoporosis with calcium
- Help headaches fade away
- Corn and callus relief
- Aid to maintain health
- Skin rashes, athlete's foot
- Relieve insect bites
- Remedy for urinary problems
- Use for coughs, colds
- Destroy bacteria in foods
- Heart and circulatory problems
- Fight high blood pressure

And the above is only a brief sample of the 308 uses for vinegar you'll learn about.

You'll know how grandma's recipe for her famous pie crust depends on a spoonful of apple cider vinegar.

How a combination of vinegar and fruit juices relieves arthritis symptoms and other aches and pains.

Try a delicious low calorie, calcium-and-iron rich chicken soup and vinegar recipe.

Combine your favorite herbs with vinegar to create tenderizers, mild laxatives, mouth washes, tension relievers, and mouthwatering tasty salad dressings and more.

Of course, we all know the cleaning power of vinegar. But Emily Thacker's research has uncovered a host of new moneysaving ways to keep your home, laundry, clothing, brass, copper and other possessions sparkling clean. And with less effort.

You'll also delight in making and bottling your own special vinegars. It's so simple to follow Emily's recipes. Homemade vinegars make such wonderful gifts. You could even end up selling your creations to food and gift shops.

And get ready for many compliments when the family and friends bite into those delicious pickle treats you make.

Yes, 308 remedies and recipes are yours to enjoy on a no-risk trial basis for 90 life-improving days. Imagine, three full months without obligation to keep this exclusive, one-of-its kind book.

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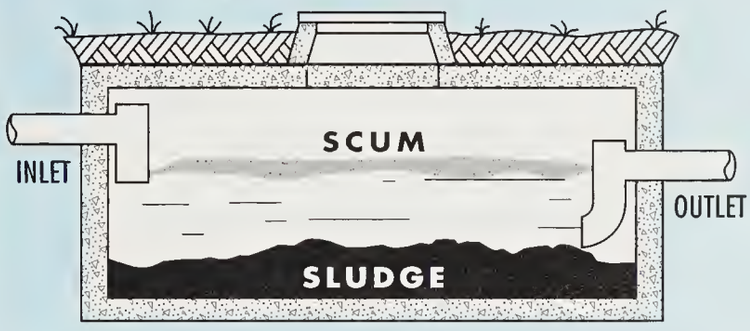
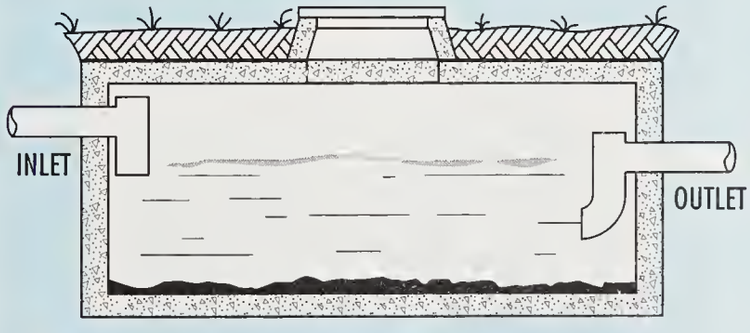


SEPTIC TANK AFTER



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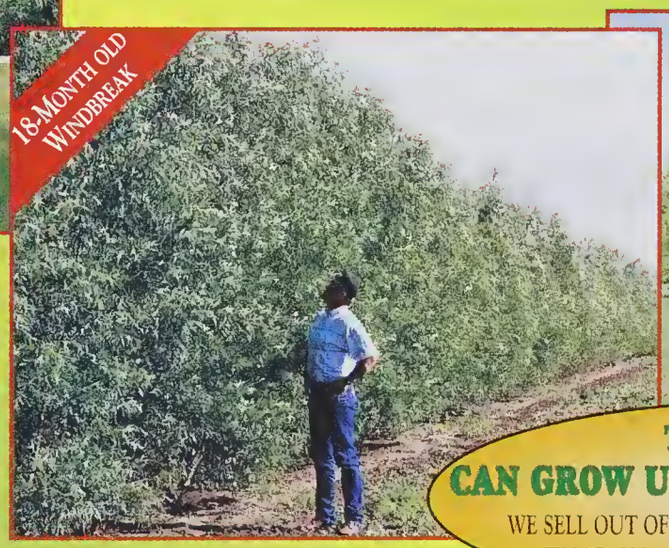

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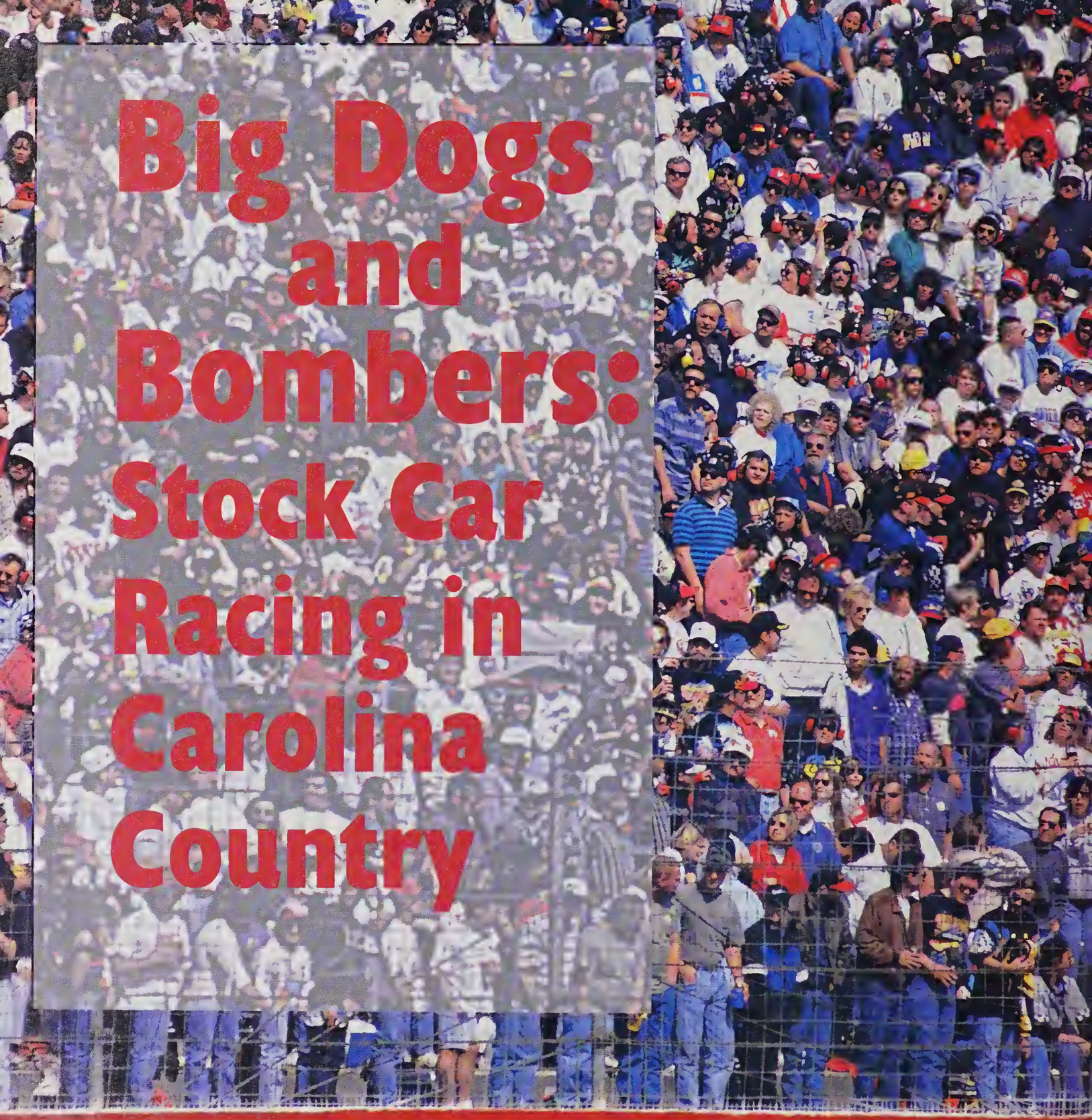
Big Dogs and Bombers: Stock Car Racing in Carolina Country



Runnin' with the Big Dogs: Carolina Country goes to The Rock

story and photos by Michael E.C. Gery

The pit crew chief.

No one believed that I wanted to see NASCAR.

"Hey!" I told them. "This is Carolina Country! It's my job. I'M THERE!"

First off, I drive a Ford. Right? A Taurus, no less. A 1994 wagon. I drive Interstate-40 and the Raleigh Beltline just about every day of the week. Right? I know how to hug the inside. I know how to press the pedal. I know how to watch my back. You wait. Taurus is the car! We are leavin' them in the DUST on the Beltline. You'll see us on the big tracks. The Thunderbird is history.

Second off, I've been to Boone. I've been to Green Hill. I've seen those Chevies barely make it off the trailer and onto the dirt. In Watauga County one night last summer, my wife and I saw the cardboard carton sign down low at the side of 421 outside of Boone—"RACING FRI. NIGHT"—and pointing down an old road. When we got there, Susan was scared. She thought people would hurt her and me both. We watched dirt flying off the track out there, and kids along the fence just sucking it in and eating it and spitting it out, like it was air, like it was Pepsi, like it was Skoal. But no one there was drunk, at least that we could tell. Not one of them was mean.

"Who's ahead?" Susan said at one point. And the guy next to us told us the whole story about the guy in the Sunoco car, and how he'd been to Wilkesboro, and who his daddy was, and that he had three cars he messed with, and how he went to school for a while and now was working at Lowes, and how he didn't have any money, and how no one has any money anyway, and how he wrecked at that turn right there last week, and how this was the same car he had then.

"Why are they going so slow?" Susan said. And the guy next to us said that this was a yellow flag, a caution flag, and that all these cars had to stay in line until the track cleared. And then came the green flag, and the roar rose into the cool black night, and rose even higher until we couldn't hear anything but cars. The guy next to us rose, too, and he stared fixed on the banged up old tired-looking stock cars blaring and whining around the track. And he didn't talk to us for a while then.

So, after that, I knew I had to go to at least one of the 48 stock car racing tracks in this state. To Green Hill, Caraway, Robersonville. More than a few of them are lighted by our member electric cooperatives. And I knew I had to read Jerry Bledsoe's book about stock car racing's roots in North Carolina. And Tom Wolfe's old story about Junior Johnson, "The Last American Hero."

And then I knew I had to go to see NASCAR. I don't know why exactly. People couldn't believe it. Maybe it's because I drive a Ford. Maybe it's because I wannabe Carolina Country. Maybe, too, it's because Anne Edwards told me to go. When Anne Edwards tells you to go somewhere, you go. You make your plans, get your tickets, and you go. When Anne Edwards tells me to go somewhere, it's like the Sports Babe telling me to go. I go.

I went to Rockingham.

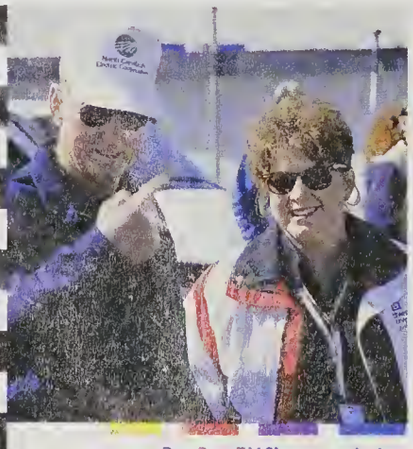
- The AC Delco 200 (Busch Grand National Race) and AC Delco 400 (Winston Cup Race) are set for Oct. 25 and 26 at the North Carolina Motor Speedway in Rockingham. Check for ticket availability at (910) 582-2861.
- Tickets are on sale for the Goodwrench 200 and Goodwrench 400 at Rockingham on Feb. 21-22, 1998.
- The 1997 NASCAR season ends Nov. 16 at the NAPA 500 in Atlanta. The 1998 50th anniversary season opens Feb. 15 at the Daytona 500 in Florida.
- The 1997 short track stock car season in North Carolina extends into November.

Rollin' into The Rock

I'm driving the biggest, baddest car I could get. A white 1993 Ford Explorer, from the fleet of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives. It's the Carolina Country pace car. I head down US 1 at dawn on a Saturday morning in late February, bound for the Goodwrench races, a Busch Grand National 200 and a Winston Cup 400, with Brooks & Dunn on the radio doing "Boot Scootin' Boogie."

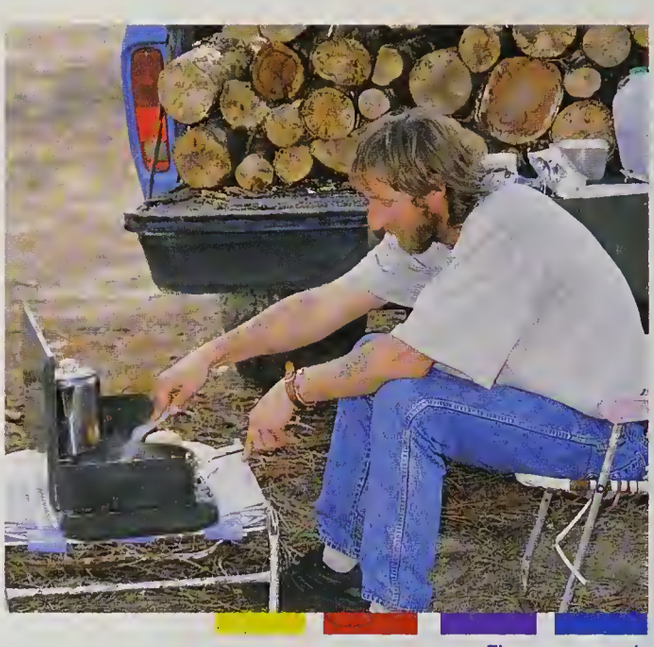
Pretty soon I see guys on the side of the road south of Southern Pines, hanging out in an abandoned gas station lot. Tired guys holding signs that beg "Need Tickets." Hey. I'm not giving my tickets to anyone. I worked for these babies. I am a news man. I followed the rules to get media credentials from the North Carolina Motor Speedway. Anne Edwards told me how to do it. (Anne is Ms. Member Services for Pee Dee Electric in Rockingham, and she moonlights in public relations for the Speedway there.) Now all I have to do is show up at the Media Trailer. So that's what I do. Roll down US 1 until I see the hulking race track rising in front of me like an elephant waking up, like I'm rolling into North Myrtle Beach worried about what's going to hit me next and whether it will get me in trouble.

I ease that Explorer down the gate road where guys wearing The Rock shirts wave me along toward the Media Trailer. And sure enough, Anne is right there. Man, you can't DO any better than heading up to a trailer where Anne tells you to go and seeing her right there along with other perfect female public relations types issuing media credentials that let you go where you need to go inside this massive stadium that's just waking up. I think of those guys on the side of the road who "need tickets," and I wonder how they're getting along.



Pee Dee EMC's sports babe.

Across the road the campground is already wide awake. This is a serious race weekend camp. People take off the whole week and head to Rockingham, and the only real place to stay near the track is this campground. People from Indiana, Alabama, Pennsylvania, and plenty of locals, Ellerbe, Albemarle, Asheboro. Some people in here don't have any kind of real job other than following the Winston Cup Series. Billboards and banners emblazoned with pictures of cars and drivers and screaming big red-white WINSTON, NEVER ACCEPT LESS THAN 100% and red-white-blue STP and white-on-red THIS BUD's FOR YOU and yellow-on-black HAVOLINE and the big roaring KODIAK bear on green and white-on-black GOODWRENCH Service NO. 3 DALE EARNHARDT. Broad grinning pictures of drivers like a squared jawed Bobby Labonte, Ricky Rudd in mean sunglasses and big orange TIDE, AMERICA's FAVORITE, the little boy look of Ricky Craven in a Budwesier spaceman suit. And below all the banners and Stars 'n Bars rebel flags and flapping bright blue tarps, the aluminum tables are set up for breakfast, guys sleep in old recliners, kids tool around on ATVs, campfires smolder in big old tractor wheels and sawed-off oil drums, guys with "furwood 4 sale" from the back of pick-ups. Long pick-ups and trailers, RVs and school buses painted with Dale Jarrett's "88" and camper trucks set in a circle around a playground of lawn chairs, bulging trash bags, spent Pepsi carriers. Smells like bacon and mud in here. Charlie Daniels wails above it all, "Devil Went Down to Georgia." Yellow police line tape cordons off a group of tents. Guys in there washing their heads and brushing their teeth, then chugging orange juice, Budweiser, Wild Turkey. Portable generators hum outside the RVs. Some crazy group is already up and racing pheasants on a straight track. Racing pheasants!



The campground.

I must say here that I checked in on this campground the next morning—Sunday morning, before The

Rock's main race—and the place looked the same as it did on Saturday morning. People needed a little more time getting up, maybe, and more trash bags lay about and no one wore combed hair, but there was no trouble the night before, they told me, and if you needed some coffee someone would give it to you and talk right at you and get you going for the day. It was one big Sunday morning revival. No one sat around with morning newspapers—no one--but hey, everyone knew who's on the pole today, who's qualified, and how Mark Martin's Winn Dixie Ford beat Dale Jarrett's White Rain Ford by .16 seconds yesterday, the closest finish of a Busch Grand National 200 ever at The Rock. The private planes had come in and parked at the south end near the drag strip. And the guys racing the pheasants drew even more people on Sunday morning.

The infield.

Silken supermen

The Infield is a whole different story. At Rockingham you barrel down into a tunnel and up to a wide open 25-acre circus field. They pay $100 to get in here. It's worth a whole lot more. Giant hauler trucks that carry the race cars and tools and whatever, sleek and shining brilliant colors, lined up next to one another like jumbo jets. Uniformed roustabouts roll tires and fuel carriers. The well-dressed fans lounge outside their RVs arranging patio furniture on green turf rugs, mixing drinks, sucking cigars. Guys stand on wood platforms laid on top of vans and RVs and busses where they revolve to see the whole 1.017-mile asphalt track with turns 3 and 4 banked up 25 degrees. From up top they watch the crowds stroll below. Hearty, buzz-headed, bare-chested young bucks on the roof of a banged-up black-painted Goodwrench school bus, gripping beer cans, bouncing to Molly Hatchet blasting from man-high speakers set on the dirt below. I mean BORN to be wild. Fine-faced, long-haired girls in tight jeans roam in flocks. Firefighters tend water hoses. Photographers jostle by with long-barrel lenses hanging from their necks. Kids hunt with their autograph books. Serious, leathery, wiry guy in black jeans, pointed boots and a Richard Petty cowboy hat pushes a handtruck loaded with wheel rims, recognizes a lady he's seen before and stops up short then breaks into this big old grin and hugs her calling, "Hey girl I KNEW I'd run into you here!"

A few cars tear around the track on practice laps. At 10:30, under a tent at the drivers meeting you hear "No more than three tire changes, gentlemen . . . No fuel on the pit road . . . No standing on the pit wall . . . Put the steering wheel on straight, PLEASE. We want everyone to finish this race." And someone says a prayer. "In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

Crews in body suits—the yellow-and-purple Joe Camel, the fire orange Citgo, the yellow-and-red McDonalds, the black-and-pink Exide Batteries. They PUSH these low, driverless, stripped out Ford Thunderbirds, Chevy Monte Carlos and Pontiac Grand Prix from the garage. They lean like pallbearers silently pushing big caskets on wheels. Caskets labeled with every logo memento from This Life: every cereal boxtop, candy wrapper, bumpersticker, six-pack, paint can, oil can, soup can, TV show, soap box, ready roll, finger-lickin decal that you might yet be able to take with you into the Great Beyond. Silently pushing them into a line to be inspected under the sun by tall Winston Cup Series men in bright cigarette white trousers, caps and windbreakers trimmed in Winston red. These crew push perfectly built, perfectly tuned 358-cubic-inch engines inside compact steel hardbodies rolling on wide flat-black $1,000 tires, up to the pole, 43 cars, poised like beautiful exotic show cats.

At the Drivers Introduction on a stage at the Start/Finish Line, handsome hero heads—proud, razorcut, champion heads—like bright washed cherries on top of silken flavored whipped cream astronaut suits. Superman suits. Jewels on their shoes. Gorgeous women on their arms. Holding their babies. They're happy to see the VIPs here. Cameras flashing and zipping. One by one they wave high and wide to a bellow-

The pit crew.

The gas guys.

ing Rockingham grandstand. When the big winners step up and wave— Dale Earnhardt, Dale Jarrett, Ernie Irvin, Terry Labonte, Jeff Gordon, Mark Martin — the roars reach heaven. Almost 70,000 race fans, each one pulling for one driver, one team, one name.

There's nothing like this in the NFL.

Except maybe the slow, solemn drawn-out "Star Spangled Banner" o'er the la-a-and of tha-ah free-eee-eee. And the ho-o-me of tha-ah bra-a-a-a-a-ave. YES SIR!

Tearin' it up

Then the Thunder. I mean earth-shaking blowout thunder, like 43 mad giant lions who can't get out of the cage. And then wild high-whine screaming around and around and around the track. SCREAMING! Doin' 120! TEARIN' IT UP!

I suddenly notice that everyone around me in the Infield has fallen mute. No yelling, no cheering. No mouths open anywhere. (You couldn't hear them anyway.) It's like I'm walking around a movie set where the soundtrack is banging the post and the actors are all mannequins, wordless programmed mechanical mesmerized stoned fanatics, eyes fixed, heads turning on a straight steady plane leftward from 12 o'clock to 9 o'clock, then torsos twisting to 6 o'clock, then heads snapping back to 3 o'clock as the pack of cars screams round again. Then, hey! I realize that these heads wear headsets—or at least earplugs—so they look like they're receiving signals from above and beyond. Messages. Orders. Revelations. And they ARE! They are tuned into the Motorsports Racing Network, or the scanners that carry the talk between the pits and the drivers. This is real live racing, as close and as fast as you can get. There's nothing like this in the NFL.

Except maybe in the pits. Earnest guys in there work as tightly as a mighty rock band on their best night. Sparks fly, they work so fast. In there the gasoline and hot rubber coat your throat. You smoke cigarettes to change out the taste in your mouth. These guys look like the most trustworthy mechanics you ever had, or at least the most reliable lineman you ever had on your football team. They're in uniform. They stand at attention and ready to spring, under the signs hanging over the pit road wall—the Interstate Batteries sign, the DuPont Quality Finishes sign, the Skoal Bandit sign, the Circuit City sign. They watch their crew chief. The crew chief is all steel. Sometimes he's seated above the pit, sometimes he's in the pit. Weathered face locked in the most concentrated gaze you can get, like the guys at Mission Control during a space shuttle landing. (I think a pit crew chief's heart thumps real slow. Slower than the rest of us.) And then the driver blasts onto the pit road and makes the car quit like a blackout. The crew swarms the car like bees on candy so white-hot they can only nip off its tires, and plunge in gas like serum from a needle, until even they can't stand it, and the car jumps like it was shocked by an electric prod and zips back onto the track. The crew high-five each other and wipe up the spills, scoop up pieces of steel hardware and mark the smoking hot tires and roll them back into the pit.

And perched on a throne above the pit, shining like Venus on the horizon, like a rose in a thunderstorm, you might see a female so transfixing, so beautiful. A Joan of Arc in a black leather jacket, a Rita Hayworth in headphones, a Mira Sorvino, a goddess. If YOU were a driver streaking by this pit, your fists clenching a wheel, and you saw the loveliest woman in your life waving you on, you'd streak faster each time you passed. Right?

Hey, there's nothing like this at the NFL.

No one really cares if these guys slam each other into the wall. No one really hopes for the wreck, for the flying tires and metal. They just want to see their man go as fast and smooth as he can. And they just want to holler all day with other hollerin race fans.

NASCAR is the fastest growing spectator sport in the U.S. More than 315,000 fans go to a single race (Indianapolis) and more would go if a stadium were big enough. As NASCAR enters its 50th season with 33 Winston Cup races in 1998, political pressure may force out the traditional cigarette industry sponsorship. But other big dog logos are lined up to take their places. New, big tracks in places like Las Vegas, Dallas and Los Angeles may lure the professional races out of the South, but racing belongs to North Carolina. For some reason or other – the explanation is argued plenty – car racing grew up here on the country tracks. North Wilkesboro and Tim Flock gave NASCAR its start. The greatest drivers — Junior Johnson, Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt — are North Carolina guys. And where else do community colleges, like ones in Statesville and Salisbury, teach courses in tires? When you talk stock car racing, you're talking about Carolina country.

Revival at Robersonville

by Heidi Jernigan Smith

It's race night at the East Carolina Motor Speedway in the otherwise tranquil Martin County town of Robersonville.

The Super Stocks are on the track and current points leader Garth Bossie has come onto pit road with tire problems.

The crew of defending points champion Jim Burbage Jr. comes to his aid. After a few adjustments, Bossie is back on the track in a Rainbow Warrior minute.

Why help the competition—particularly during the race? "It's great to win the war, but the weekly battles out on the track are what keep us here," says Jimmy Burbage Sr. Then Bossie and Burbage resume dueling for position.

The East Carolina Motor Speedway has been in a battle of its own. Just two years ago the asphalt, 3/8-mile tri-oval track was literally on its last lap.

Going Back to Green

Marvin Gurganus, 35, and his wife, Kim, bought the East Carolina Motor Speedway at the end of the 1996 race season. Ask Gurganus why he brought the track and he'll tell you without hesitation, "I lost my mind!"

A race fan since the age of 5, Gurganus indulged his need for speed by racing motocross, go-carts and stock cars. He found his permanent racing home when East Carolina Motor Speedway (ECMS) hosted its inaugural event in 1990.

Racing has been such a part of his life that in 1995, Marvin and Kim got married at the speedway. NASCAR driver Rick Mast served as Gurganus' best man while "The Preacher" Arnold Pressey, driver of the #17 4-cylinder Thunderbird, officiated. After posing for wedding photos, the groom dashed across the infield to begin the race – in a car covered in toilet paper.

That same year the track hit a financial low. In August 1995, the track was closed. Investors reopened the track eight months later in hopes of finding a new owner.

It was Gurganus' wife, Kim, who suggested they purchase the track. "We hated to see it close and figured that, if marketed properly, it could be a good investment," Marvin said.

The couple has orchestrated nothing short of a miracle. Since then, weekly ticket sales at the racetrack have tripled. On July 5, a near capacity crowd of 2,900 stayed until the last race was finished in spite of a two-hour rain delay.

Part of the track's success can be attributed to Gurganus' "flash not cash" philosophy. Fans want to see local drivers. They want to cheer for people they know. So in order to fill the grandstands week after week, Gurganus created the Bomber Division.

In the Bomber Division (otherwise known as "the poor man's division") anyone can compete. Racing is an expensive sport, but the Bomber Division was created specifically for drivers running cars worth $750 or less. Currently, the Bomber Division boasts 43 drivers. And that's just in the men's division. The ECMS also hosts a Lady Bombers class that has long since shed the "Powderpuff Racing" misnomer. Ask any speedway regular: Women who any other day might swap recipes are just as eager to swap paint on the track.

As Gurganus sees it there's only one drawback to track ownership, and that's giving up his own turn behind the wheel. "My car's race ready and maybe I'll get out there once or twice this year," he muses. Nevertheless, Gurganus manages to rack up 30,000 miles a year in his other career as a professional sports photographer. He photographs the Carolina Panthers training camp annually.

"As a freelancer you have to be a salesman," Gurganus shrugs. "That's one thing the track lacked before. Someone who's visible, follows through and doesn't promise more than he can deliver."

Marvin and Kim Gurganus are grateful for their success and routinely give back to the community. It's not uncommon for "helmets" to pass through the grandstand to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis or the Ronald McDonald House. Donations like these have helped pay medical expenses for a fellow racer who was severely burned when the tractor trailer rig he was driving for a Busch Grand National Team erupted in flames.

But right now, as the Pepsi Late Models go back to green, it's all take and no give.

Saturday, October 25, 1997, will be "Electric Co-op Night at the Races" at the East Carolina Motor Speedway. The participating sponsors will be Edgecombe-Martin, Halifax, Pitt & Greene, Roanoke and Tideland electric cooperatives. Members of the sponsoring co-ops attend free with coupon. The track is located on Hwy. 64 in Robersonville. Tickets are $8 adults, $4 children 6 to 11, and free admission for children under 6. Gates open at 5 p.m. and racing begins at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the speedway at (919) 795-3968.

Heidi Jernigan Smith is communications & marketing specialist for Tideland EMC in Pantego. She and husband, John, sponsor the #11 and #3B Chevrolet Lumina Super Stocks at Robersonville.

From Appaloosas and Arabians to Palominos and Pintos

Horses have whinnied their way onto North Carolina's farms

by Nell Perry Bovender

When Bettie and Steve Carroll moved to North Carolina from Ohio in 1989, they moved into Bettie's family homeplace in Walkertown, just outside Winston-Salem. It's a family farm dating back to N.D. Sullivan, one of the first tobacco farmers to sell to R.J. Reynolds himself. The farm remains in operation, but the commodity today is horses. Sullivan Farms has been breeding Hanoverians since 1991.

It's a story being repeated all over North Carolina. Where tobacco, corn and soybeans once grew, horses now graze. The best estimate of how many horses live in this state, officials agree, is 225,000, double the 112,000 here 25 years ago.

The equine industry is difficult to classify, agriculture officials point out, because it is both agricultural and recreational. Unlike hogs, cattle or chickens, horses aren't necessarily raised to sell at markets that record sales. A horse may be sold only once in its life, and most of those sales are private.

The economic impact of the industry includes the sale of feed, tack, fencing, grass seed and fertilizer, and the provision of professional services, including veterinarians and farriers. Then there's the impact of a show that draws visitors to use motel rooms, eat in restaurants, shop at stores and buy gas. At present, the state's two show and sale arenas — the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center in Fletcher near Asheville and the Horse Arena at the State Fairgrounds — are booked almost every weekend for horse shows. It is considered a year-round business.

The state is building an Eastern North Carolina Agricultural Center adjacent to the new Hwy. 64 bypass in Williamston. The $11.5 million project is scheduled to be ready for use in late spring 1998. A similar center is in the works near Lumberton.

Nationwide figures estimate $2,100 to $2,400 is generated by every horse, says Bob Mowrey, Extension horse commodity coordinator for Animal Science at N.C. State University. Multiply that by the 225,000 estimate here, and you're easily in the half-a-billion-dollar range.

photos courtesy of N.C. Division of Travel and Tourism

Nationally, the equine industry is smaller than textiles but larger than the film industry, says Margie Rhodes, president of the N.C. Horse Council. "That's a lot of backyard horses." But the percentage is more like 50 percent recreational use and 50 percent a mix of showing, breeding and racing stock. "There may be no racing industry here," she said, "but there is a strong seed industry. We breed and train the horses here, then they get sold out of state for racing."

The N.C. Horse Council

The N.C. Horse Council represents interests in all horses, mules and donkeys in the state. It is not fragmented by breed. The council is dealing with several pressing issues, including equine infectious anemia, an AIDS-related disease that affects horses but is not passed to humans.

"It's called swamp fever," Rhodes says, "and we have one of the worst records in the country." Over 100 horses in this state have

tested positive and were euthanized. By comparison, South Carolina has recorded only five cases. The difference is in enforcement of regulations requiring that horse owners have their horses tested annually. The test is called a Coggins test. The council urges stronger enforcement in this state and suggests that organizations require proof of a negative Coggins test before horses participate in shows.

A lifetime sport

Raising and riding horses can be a lifetime activity, says Steve Mobley, horse specialist for the N.C. Department of Agriculture. "It's one of the few sports that you can get into it when you're a very small child and keep doing as you get older," he says. "The older you get, the better horse person you are. You can spend a lot of money, buy a trailer and go the show route or you can ride on trails just for recreation."

When undergraduates to N.C. State University's animal science department — the third largest program in the nation — indicate their animal of interest, 70 percent select horses, says Bob Mowrey. Students can receive a four-year degree in equine studies from State or attend a two-year Ag Institute there with emphasis on horses. Martin Community College in Williamston also offers equine technology.

North Carolina also claims the second largest 4-H horse program in the country, with 14,000 projects annually.

N.C. State offers 17 courses and clinics. One of its most innovative is REINS, Regional Equine Information Networking System. Begun in 1995, it has trained and certified 110 volunteers. The REINS volunteers work through the county Extension offices, which have been divided into 14 regions of the state. It's the only program of its kind in the nation.

What kind of horses live here?

The state's recent survey of equine inventory (including ponies, mules and donkeys) accounted for 132,000 of the equine in North Carolina. (Numbers may reflect under-reporting.)

American quarterhorses, 45,100 (34 percent of the total).
Tennessee walking horses, 11,200.
Arabian, 10,100.
Appaloosa, 8,600.
American paint, 6,700.
American saddlebred, 4,300.
Miniature horses, 2,700.
Half-Arabians, 2,600.
Morgans, 2,500.
Palominos, 1,300.
Pintos, 500.
Light horses not identified by breed, 9,800.
Thoroughbred race horses, 9,300.
Standardbred race horses, 1,100.
Warmbloods (horses from European bloodlines): 1,500 Hanoverians, 500 Trakehners, 1,800 warmbloods not identified by breed.
Draft horses: 1,600 Belgians, 800 Percherons, 100 Clydesdales, 500 other draft horses.
Ponies, 6,200.
Mules, 1,700.
Donkeys, 1,500.

Top 10 counties in horse population: Guilford, Union, Mecklenburg, Wake, Rockingham, Forsyth, Iredell, Moore, Buncombe, Cumberland and Johnston.

Total value of equine: $533 million. Owners placed value anywhere from $50 to more than $500,000 per animal. The average was $4,000.

Average price paid for a horse: $1,800 to $2,500.

"Now with one call to the Horse Council," Mowrey says, "14 regions can be contacted, and with the 110 volunteers, the word can be out there to thousands of horse owners in no time."

Want to know more?

Steve Mobley of the Department of Agriculture hears regularly from parents who want to buy their daughter a horse. "We thought we'd buy a young one so the two of them could grow up together," they often say. That's a formula for disaster, he says. "I tell them that it's like buying her a sports car and putting her out in rush hour traffic."

For more information about specific breeds, prices or getting in the horse business, call Steve Mobley at (919) 733-7136.

To get more involved with the horse business through some of the short courses offered by the Animal Science Department at N.C. State, call Bob Mowrey at (919) 515-5784.

A good place to start for local information is your county office of the N.C. Extension Service. You might ask specifically if there is a REINS volunteer nearby who could answer some of your questions.

Farmedic program teaches emergency response on North Carolina farms

by Peggy Howe

Medics learn to respond to overturned tractors.

Every day, somewhere in North Carolina, 911 calls report farm accidents.

Also, every day, dedicated emergency medical service volunteers (EMS) with specialized training respond to these calls. The volunteers learn their skills from an enthusiastic corps of instructors in a statewide program called Farmedic. It's a cooperative effort between the N.C. Fire and Rescue Commission of the state Department of Insurance and statewide community college system.

According to Farmedic leader Gene Gladin of Weaverville (a member of French Broad EMC), the program began in 1981 at New York's Alfred State College, and now operates in 48 states. Gladin took the New York course in 1992 and then introduced it here. Farmedic receives strong support from the N.C. Farm Bureau Federation.

Gladin, one of 35 trained instructors across the state, says North Carolina has offered 69 classes with 1,100 students receiving attendance certificates. "Students return to their various areas better prepared to respond to all farm emergencies: equipment, chemical, animals or confined spaces," he says.

In 1995, North Carolina led the nation with 26 courses, then led again in 1996 and is ahead in 1997.

Josh Starnes of Granite Falls (a member of Blue Ridge EMC) says the three-day, 24-hour instructors program requires a written and practical exam for certification. A busy captain in the Hickory Fire Department, Starnes said the training is about half classroom and half hands-on.

Instructors, upon receiving their five-year certification, must teach 100 hours to retain the certificate. According to most, the 100 hours is no problem to achieve.

David Aycock (a member of Tri-County EMC), a safety instructor for eight years and Wilson firefighter, said North Carolinians eagerly joined Farmedic. "If we can help you save your life or your neighbor's, our goal is accomplished," said Aycock, another driving force in the program. In 1993, students gathered on Aycock's Fremont farm for the first classes.

Farmedic officials at Alfred State College are so impressed with North Carolina's response to the program that they are offering a fall upgrade program here for instructors. Occasionally, North Carolina's instructors are called to conduct training in other states.

"The program definitely has enhanced North Carolina's EMS. It saves time, saves lives," Gladin said.

Gladin tells about a man who attended one of his classes, then returned home and immediately taught his six-year-old son to turn off the tractor. The next day the father had a tractor accident and the young son turned off the tractor for a very happy ending.

Because heavy farm machinery and farm accidents differ greatly from home and highway accidents, sometimes regular EMS responders are unfamiliar with the best rescue measures. Since the two most prevalent farm accidents are entanglement and tractor overturns, the instruction emphasizes location of safety levers and release pins.

Starnes has converted an old tractor and constructed dummies for training aids.

An auxiliary program, "First on the Scene," teaches first response to farm families and their children. Several counties hold "day camps" for children.

Richard Caudill, a member of Blue Ridge EMC and a Christmas tree farmer, serves Alleghany County as Emergency Services Manager. After about 20 years experience in emergency services, Caudill says, "In the classes we try to eliminate some of the elements of chance, showing ways of moving accident victims safely, not injuring the patient more. The greatest satisfaction is seeing them back on the street, knowing you've helped."

For details on the Farmedic training, contact the N.C. Fire and Rescue Commission, (800) 634-7854, or your local community college.

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"Midday"

In celebration of Bob Timberlake's 100th reproduction, the *Bob Timberlake*® Gallery is pleased to announce the release of *"Midday"*. Produced in offset lithography, this classic Timberlake reproduction is being offered as a time-limited edition with orders being accepted from September 15 through November 8, 1997.

The image area of *"Midday"* is 24 ¼" × 18 ½" on 100% rag stock which measures 30" × 22 ¾". Issue price is $250.00 plus $10.00 shipping (NC residents add 6% sales tax of $15.00). The size of the edition will be determined at the end of the reservation period. To reserve your reproduction of this very special offering please contact:

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Agribusiness represents 62% of the tonnage handled at the North Carolina ports of Morehead City and Wilmington. Exports include forest products (wood pulp, wood chips, lumber, newsprint and liner board), frozen poultry and pork, tobacco and fertilizer products.

Technology is home-grown help on today's North Carolina farms

As we approach the year 2000, North Carolina agribusiness is already employing technologies that will shape the 21st century. Still rooted in the land but branching out in cyberspace, our state's agribusiness applies technology in its three most vital roles: stewards of the environment, providers of food, and exporters to the world.

Newly designed curing barns, for example, allow tobacco growers to cut their energy use in half and reduce labor costs. Computerized fertilizer application has dramatically reduced agribusiness' environmental impact. Plant specialists are using computer-enhanced images to advise turf growers when grass is being stressed. Through biotechnology, scientists and producers are developing trees that better serve lumber and paper markets, as well as fruits and vegetables which have longer shelf lives and more natural weather and pest resistance.

From soil testing to downloading market and weather reports, to record keeping, computers are becoming a favorite tool of agribusiness. Every facet of agribusiness' infrastructure will be largely computer-based: land management, labor, finance, production, processing and transportation.

Technologies such as genetic engineering increase the market potential of value-added products, including poultry, wheat, peanuts and vegetables. These and many other North Carolina commodities, like tobacco, enjoy world-wide demand.

Name any North Carolina commodity, from apples and pine trees to poultry and pork to farm-raised catfish, and you can be sure that today's technologies factor into production, processing and delivery to market. Better still, consumers are savoring fresher produce and safe, healthier food choices thanks to technologies such as genetic engineering.

Technological advances in food, fiber and forest production also benefit the environment. North Carolina forests today site more than three times the number of trees than in the 1920s. Over 18 million acres of commercial forest, valued at billions of dollars, blanket our state. Today, in North Carolina's poultry and swine industries, more animals are raised in closely

How the state's largest pepper grower uses computers

Doug Wilson and DL&B Enterprises in Sampson County grow peppers, cucumbers, pickles, squash and eggplant. The farm is a member of South River Electric Membership Corporation.

"Our computerized drip irrigation and fertilization system allows us to feed and water each plant what it needs every day to get a quality product. With this system, we also use considerably less nutrients than in conventional farming so there's less leaching. This technology is better for the environment and it helps us stay competitive."

Controlling a sow's appetite

Gerald, George and Bruce Warren of Warren Farming Company and Warren Swine Farms, Sampson County, produce swine, tobacco, cotton and soybeans. The farm is a member of South River Electric Membership Corporation.

"With our computerized system, each sow is fed according to the individual animal's needs for optimum nutrition. Using more efficient feeding systems as well as artificial insemination helps us produce a more desirable end product for consumers. We also have computerized records for every sow which allows us to monitor production performance."

controlled facilities with systems, including waste management, that protect animal and worker health and safeguard natural resources.

Technology brightens economic reports as well. Aquaculture, or fish farming, had a $50 million impact on our state's economy in 1995. Market demand exceeds production and increased revenues are projected for the future.

North Carolina's State Ports have implemented an Automated Information System (AIS) which makes getting to global markets more efficient. The AIS uses software programs and electronic data interchange systems that identify and track shipments and coordinate sourcing and delivery. Advantages of N.C. State Ports AIS program include improved accuracy, elimination of paperwork and timely flow of information and cargo.

Technology serves North Carolina's agribusiness community not as an end in itself, but as a means to increase output while protecting natural resources. In the spirit and practice of environmental stewardship, North Carolina agribusinesses participate in numerous partnerships. For example, the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina has become a working partner with the New York Audubon Society's Cooperative Sanctuary Program. This program is designed to encourage, assist and reward property owners and managers who incorporate wildlife habitat enhancement and environmental conservation activities into their normal maintenance routines.

One of Audubon's Sanctuary Programs is specifically designed for golf courses where turf grass prevails. Participating golf courses receive advice on how to conduct proactive environmental projects. In North Carolina, home to world-famous golf courses and other outdoor recreational sites, there is enormous potential for promoting ecologically sound land management.

Members of the North Carolina Nursery Association have formed another partnership, working together on recycling projects which conserve water.

In North Carolina, agriculture plays a major role in our state's positive trade balance. Today, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and agribusinesses statewide access the market, in part, via the Worldwide Web. In fact, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture was the first state agriculture department in the U.S. to open a web site: www.agr.state.nc.us.

Farming and technology may seem like unlikely partners, but in every sector of agribusiness today, applied technology is increasing productivity, expanding North Carolina's competitiveness in world markets, and safeguarding the environment.

Thanks to the North Carolina Agribusiness Council, Inc. (3701 National Drive, Suite 211, Raleigh, NC 27612-4864, 919-782-4063) and Lewis Advertising, Rocky Mount, NC, for help with this article.

Pellets for poultry

John Glosson and his son, Chuck, of Glosson Farms in Chatham County are Townsend Producers of broiler chickens.

"We use a three-stage feeding system developed for high efficiency: starter pellets followed by grower pellets and, for the last ten days, withdrawal pellets. It's amazing how this system brings the chickens out and gets us a better price because of improved feed conversion. Less waste makes for more profit."

Carolina Close-up

compiled by Carol Clayton

Festival of Trees scheduled

The 1997 Lower Cape Fear Hospice Festival of Trees, "A Season of Celebrations" will run from Saturday, Nov. 29 through Sunday, Dec 7 in historic downtown Wilmington. The festival has distinguished itself as a southeastern North Carolina holiday tradition over the past fifteen years while being the largest fundraiser benefitting Lower Cape Fear Hospice.

Over 100 decorated trees will be on display, plus continuous live holiday performances, unique holiday arrangements and for-sale items, a gingerbread village and special events for children.

Proceeds will benefit the Lower Cape Fear Hospice, a not-for-profit health care agency whose mission is to provide professional health care comfort to the terminally ill and to offer hope, support and education to patients, their families and the community. Last year this event raised over $120,000 which helped subsidize care for uninsured and under insured patients.

The festival will take place in the Wilmington Hilton's public rooms. For more information, call (910) 772-5444.

BASSMASTERS Classic unveils commemorative painting

Dempsey Essick, a renowned artist from Welcome and official artist for the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.) has created "The B.A.S.S. Corner" to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the BASSMASTERS Classic.

The painting reflects a nostalgic collection of angling memorabilia that represents three decades of major league tournament fishing. It focuses on a catchall shelf that could be found in the corner of any bass fisherman's garage or workshop. Among more than 75 featured items in the painting, Essick included a mounted bass that Ray Scott caught in 1966, and the rod, real and lure that Essick's good friend, David Fritts, used to win the 1993 Classic Championship.

"The B.A.S.S. Corner" is a time limited fine art reproduction. Orders received through November 15 will determine the number of prints on the regular run. To place an order for the print, call (800) 727-4958.

Glade Valley cookbook

The new Mount Carmel Baptist Church Women's Missionary Union cookbook contains 1,030 recipes. For a copy, send $12 plus $3 for shipping and handling to: Joan Smith, Box 7915, U.S. Highway 21 South, Glade Valley, NC 28627.

NationsBank Gift to transform Montaldo into Mint Museum of Craft and Design

NationsBank will refurbish and donate the 82,000 square-foot Montaldo Building in Charlotte to become the Mint Museum of Craft and Design, the most unique gift the museum has seen in its 60-year history.

The vision for the museum, to open in early 1999, is to join the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery in Washington D.C. and the American Craft Museum in New York City as a national crafts resource through its permanent collections, original exhibitions and scholarship.

The focus of the new facility will be studio crafts, with emphasis on building premier collections of ceramics, glass, wood and fibers. The permanent collection will also include historic and traditional material. A changing exhibition series will open with The White House Collection of Contemporary American Crafts, the final stop for the national tour organized by the Renwick Gallery of American Craft.

Features of the museum will include 16,000 square feet of galleries, a street level gift shop, offices, storage and workshop space, and a rooftop rental/catering program.

The Montaldo Building first opened in 1953, introducing New York and Paris couturier fashion to the Charlotte market. The estimated cost for land, building and renovation of the Montaldo Building is $8.2 million. For museum information, call (704) 337-2000.

Find your way in Seagrove

The Seagrove Area Potters and Merchants Association has issued an information brochure with maps. The Seagrove region claims more than 70 potters, as well as Uwharrie National Forest camping facilities, a covered bridge, bike routes, blacksmithing, bronze casting, galleries and hardware, feed, and seed stores, all within a 15 minute drive from Asheboro.

Contact the Seagrove Travel and Tourism Committee, PO Box 420, Seagrove, NC 27341.

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Liberty Denium's Work Wear line includes:

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- Chore jacket with set-in sleeves, snap take-ups, snap front and chest pockets.

Liberty Work Wear is made of all-cotton (11 ounces-plus), and comes in lengths of 29 to 36 inches and in sizes from 25 to 44, or medium to double-extra large.

For more information, call (800) 725-6266 or contact Liberty Rugged at P.O. Box 98, Cleburne, TX 76033.

Indian Museum Opens at Mystery Hill

How did native Americans live 12,000 years ago? The answer to this question and more can be found at a new exhibit at the Appalachian Heritage Museum at Mystery Hill.

The new Native American exhibit displays some 50,000 different, authentic Native American artifacts including sharp-tipped rocks designed both for spears and arrows, primitive clubs, eating utensils and decorative jewelry.

The collection was developed by Randolph E. "Moon" Mullins and his wife, Irene, over nearly six decades. The core of the collection came from North Carolina and Georgia and is believed to originate from the Catawba and Cherokee Indians who inhabited the region since before Christ. The Mullins, now deceased, began collecting Indian relics in the 1930s when Moon and a friend went fishing in north Georgia.

The Native American Exhibit now occupies a special place at the Appalachian Heritage Museum at Mystery Hill, on US 321 midway between Boone and Blowing Rock. It is open to the public 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Admission to the entire Mystery Hill attraction, including the Native American Exhibit is: $7 for adults, $6 for senior citizens, $5 for children 5-12 and children under 5 free. For more information, call (704) 264-2792.

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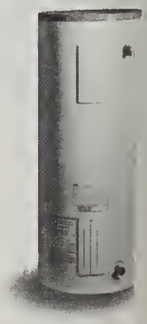
high-efficiency water heaters

are your most economical and reliable water heating

choice, call your cooperative today. It's not

like they'll be busy fixing water heaters.



Cooperative Member
Mrs. Dean Sasser
"If I need another one,
I'll let you know."

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30th Anniversary Commemorative B.A.S.S.® Print

"The B.A.S.S. Corner" by Dempsey Essick

As a special celebration of the Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society's 30th Anniversary, Dempsey Essick, one of the South's leading artists, has created a painting called "The B.A.S.S. Corner."

The scene could be a corner in any angler's garage, yet it is uniquely B.A.S.S. with artifacts reflecting three decades of major league tournament fishing.

B.A.S.S. founder, Ray Scott, said, "I hope everyone will continue to support the goals of B.A.S.S. and join me in ordering one of these beautiful, limited edition art prints."

"The B.A.S.S. Corner" is a time limited fine art reproduction. Orders received through November 15, 1997 will determine the number of prints in the regular print run. An additional 500, specially hallmarked, artist's proof prints will be produced, after which the plates will be destroyed.

"The B.A.S.S. Corner" will have an image size of 20" x 23 1/2" printed on museum quality, acid free paper. Orders will be shipped in time for Christmas delivery.

Ray Scott with Dempsey Essick

Call 7:00 AM - 11:00 PM (E.S.T.) 7 Days: **1-800-727-4958**

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	Price	Qty.	Total
Signed and Number Print	$ 95.00	____	____
(Sales Tax NC Residents Only add 5.70 each print)			
Artist Proof	$145.00	____	____
(Sales Tax NC Resident Only add 8.70 each print)			
Shipping and Handling			$ 10.00
Grand Total			____

Name _____ Address _____

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The Order Deadline for "The B.A.S.S. Corner" is November 15, 1997.

Methods of Payment

No cash, stamps or C.O.D.s. We cannot be responsible for cash sent through the mail

❑ VISA ❑ Mastercard ❑ Check

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Signature Date

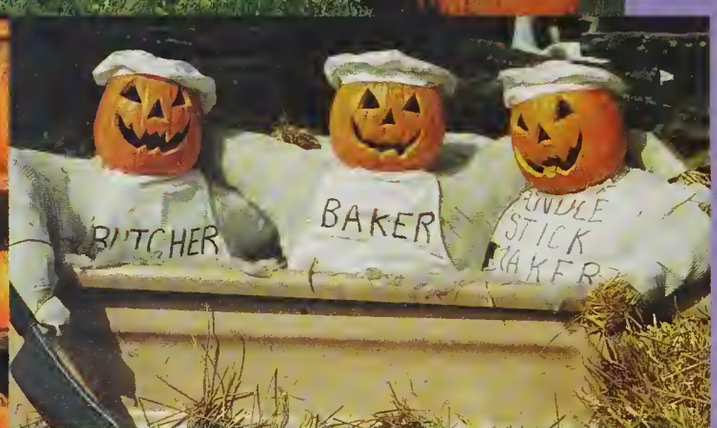
What is it about pumpkins?

Something about pumpkins sends our imaginations soaring. During October, every year, people do amazing tricks with this fruit of the vine *Cucurbita pepo*. Especially people in western North Carolina, it seems. Maybe pumpkins represent the last blast of garden color before winter closes in.

Here are some snaps sent to us by photographers who caught the decorative squashes in just the right autumn light. Carolyn Helm Godwin's pictures come from Maggie Valley. Hildegard Sandhusen's come from Macon County.

Godwin

Sandhusen



Godwin

Sandhusen

Carolina Compass

compiled by Carol Clayton

Shadow of The Hills
Oct. 2, Jefferson
Gallery reception sponsored by the Ashe County Arts Council. Ashe Arts Center. 5- 7 p.m. Free. (910) 246-4787.

Greene County Ag-Fest
Oct. 2-4, Snow Hill
Music, arts, crafts, homemade goodies, rides. Site of old Snow Hill Junior High School. Thursday & Friday, 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. (919) 758-2883.

Craft Show & Sale
Oct. 3-4, Brevard
Patchwork Playgroup juried show. Needlearts, clothing, quilts, jewelry, ceramics, figurines, Christmas ornaments. American Legion Hall. Friday, 12- 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. (704) 883-2029.

Carolina Clash Rodeo
Oct. 3-4, Marshville
NC and SC High School Rodeos compete for championship title. 8 p.m. Adults $8; under 6 free.

Autumn Leaves Wagon Train
Oct. 3-9, Mount Airy
Ride each day into foothills and mountains, and return to camp each night. Meals served each day. Live band Oct. 3, 4, & 8. $15 per person for the week. $5 to ride in parade only. Wagon gathers at Pipers Saddle Club. (910) 789-9797.

Art in the Sky Art Auction
Oct. 4, Villas
Garden water sculpture, blacksmith art, jewelry, furniture, pottery, glassworks, fiber art, and graphic art. New blacksmith studio and showroom. $15. Proceeds benefit Blazing Saddles. (704) 297-5803.

Bluegrass Music
Oct. 4, Troy
"Triple M Bluegrass" and "Pine Ridge Tradition." Special guest "Hubert Lawson and The Country Bluegrass Boys." Montgomery County Agricultural Center. Opens 6 p.m. Adults $6; children free. (910) 576-0143.

Cameron Antiques Street Fair
Oct. 4, Cameron
More than 60 dealers bring antiques to streets for the day. Historic district of Cameron. 10 a.m.- late afternoon. (910) 245-7042.

Farm City Day
Oct. 4, Hendersonville
Dancing, arts, crafts, displays, sheep herding and shearing demonstrations. Civil War soldiers camp reenactment. Jackson Park. 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Free. (704) 697-4884.

Heritage Day and Livestock Show
Oct. 4, Raleigh
Old and restored farm equipment, youth livestock show, craft demonstrations, exhibits, live entertainment and food. Historic Oak View at the Wake County Office Park. 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Free. (919) 250-1100.

Art on the Side
Oct. 4-5, West Jefferson
Self-guided tour of local artists' studios. Art and handicrafts for sale at Ashe Arts Center Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (910) 246-2787.

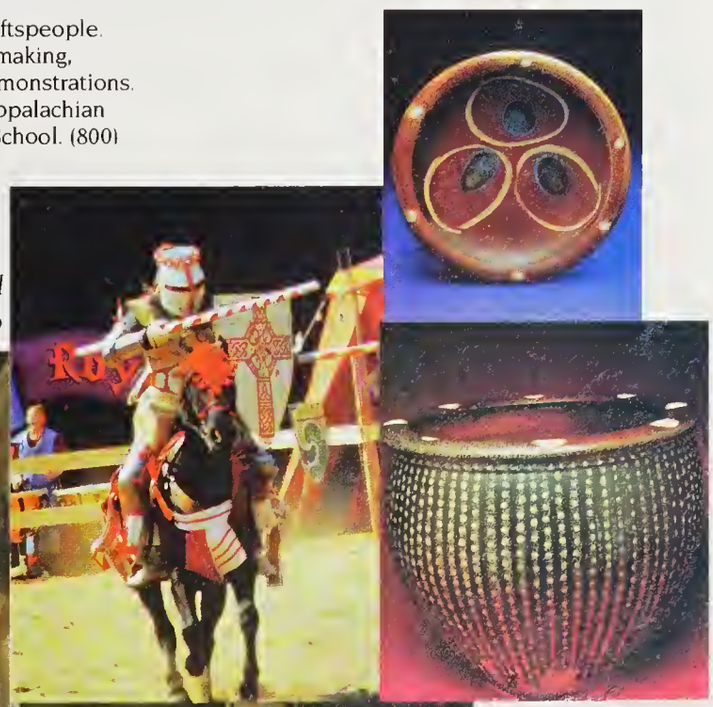
Antique Farm Machinery
Oct. 4, Sanford
Hit and miss engines, antique tractors, saw mill, steam engines. Kiddie tractor pull, 1:30 p.m. Antique tractor pull, 3 p.m. Hwy 42 West at Old Gilliam Mill. (919) 774-1870.

John C. Campbell Fall Festival
Oct. 4-5, Brasstown
More than 100 visual artists and craftspeople. White oak shingle splitting, basketmaking, blacksmithing and woodcarving demonstrations. Two music stages. bluegrass and Appalachian folk music. John C. Campbell Folk School. (800) FOLK-SCH or (704) 837-2775.

Agricultural Fair
Oct. 6-11, Carthage
4-H livestock shows with cattle, sheep, swine. Wrestlers, weightlifters and rides. At the fairgrounds. Monday- Friday, 5 p.m.-midnight; Saturday, 3 p.m.- midnight. Adults $2.50, children $1.50, under 3 free. (910) 673-7070.

Antiques Show & Sale
Oct. 9-12, Raleigh
Antiques from 31 prominent dealers. Proceeds benefit Alice Aycock Poe Center for Health Education. At the Medical Education Institute Conference Center at Wake Medical Center. Thursday, 7:30-10 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m.- 6 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.- 6 p.m.; Sunday, 12- 5 p.m. (919) 231-4006.

Leaf Lookers Gemboree
Oct. 9-12, Franklin
Special exhibits, equipment and sale. Community Facilities Building. Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.; Sunday, 12- 5 p.m. Adults $2; under 12 free. "Run of show" ticket $4. (800) 336-7829.



Carolina Renaissance Festival
Oct. 4 - Nov. 16

Southeastern Animal Fiber Fair, Winston-Salem

Mark Hewitt pottery at NC Museum of Art

Heritage Day, Raleigh

Sheep to Shawl Day, Fremont Oct. 11

Pottery Open House
Oct. 11-12, Tryon
Little Mountain Pottery hosts artists, musicians and visitors at its pottery shop, kiln shed and luthiers display. Woodworkers, glassworkers, and dulcimer maker Richard Beard. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, 12 to 4 p.m. Six miles from Columbus, on Peniel Road. I-26 Columbus/Tryon exit.

Autumn Leaves Festival
Oct. 10-12, Mount Airy
31st annual festival celebrating mountain folk traditions, crafts and music. More than 100 juried craftspeople. Woodwork items, clothes,floral items, art, jewelry, stained glass, and pottery. Food and children's games. (910) 786-6116.

Southern Ideal Home Show
Oct. 10-12, Charlotte
Everything for building & renovating. Hundreds of products, services, and ideas. Charlotte Merchandise Mart. Friday, 12- 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.- 9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. (704) 376-6594.

Chrysanthemum Festival
Oct. 10-12, New Bern
Mumfest '97. Thousands of chrysanthemums in bloom. Quilt show, gallery walk, bass tournament, model cars and airplanes,18th-century military troop, lumberjack show, crafts, dances and more. Tours of Tryon Palace Historic Sites available. (800) 767-1560.

Doll/Teddy Bear Show and Sale
Oct. 11, Greenville
14th annual show, sponsored by Greenville Doll Lovers Club. National Guard Armory, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Adults $2; children under 12 free. (919) 746-4081.

Molasses Festival
Oct. 11, Dudley Shoals
Molasses making, bluegrass music, door prizes, food, crafts, wagon rides. Sims Country Barbecue near Hickory. 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Admission $2. (704) 396-5811.

Sheep to Shawl Day
Oct. 11, Fremont
See the 19th Century process of making cloth at the Gov. Charles B. Aycock Birthplace State Historic Site. Sheep shearing, washing wool, spinning, dyeing, weaving and more. Free. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (919) 242-5581.

Craft Show
Oct. 11, Southmont
Handmade crafts, baked goods, food. Southmont Civic Center. 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. Spaces available. (910) 798-3537.

Currituck Craft Fair
Oct. 11-12, Barco
Sponsored by the Extension Homemakers Association. At Currituck Middle School, on Hwy. 158. 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. (919) 232-2261.

Acoustic Stage Performances
Oct. 11-12, Hickory
Saturday: Doc Watson with guest David Grisman. Sunday: Tony Rice with David Grisman. Arts & Science Center of Catawba Valley Auditorium. 8 p.m. Acoustic stage member, $21; non-member, $23. Both nights: Acoustic member, $36; non-member, $41. (704) 324-5951.

Tour of Historic Salisbury
Oct. 11-12, Salisbury
Called "one of the finest house tours in the Southeast." Marking the 25th anniversary of Historic Salisbury Foundation. Saturday, 10 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, 12- 5:30 p.m. (704) 636-0103.

John Blue Cotton Festival
Oct. 11-12, Laurinburg
Antiques and crafts, tractors and engines, entertainment, historic house tours, quilt show displayed within three authentic log cabins, old-time fair and 1800's living history demonstrations, petting farm, barbecue cook-off and more. Historic John Blue House grounds. 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. (910) 277-2585.

Walk for Hope
Oct. 12, Raleigh
Proceeds support the research and treatment of mental illness in the Triangle. 10K (6.2 leisure walk) starts and finishes at the Angus Barn and winds through Umstead State Park. Prizes, food, and live entertainment by the "Fabulous Shades." Registration, 8 a.m.; Walk, 10 a.m. (919) 781-WALK.

Wingate University Performance
Oct. 14, Wingate
Barbara Bates Smith as "Ellen Foster." Austin Auditorium. 7:30 p.m. (704) 233-8038.

Southern Highlands Craft Fair
Oct. 16-19, Asheville
Celebrating its 50th year. Features recent works of 150 guild members. Pottery, quilting, basket-making and educational demonstrations. "Tree-to-Chair" demonstration by Tom Donahey. Jean Ritchie, folk music legend, performs Friday and Saturday at 4 p.m. Also Homer Ledford, Asheville Storytellers and Shapenote Singers. 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Adults $5; under 12 free. Group rates and re-entry passes available. (704) 298-7928.

Valle Country Fair
Oct. 17, Valle Crucis
Regional crafts, home cooking and mountain talent entertainment. At The Apple Barn. 10 a.m. (704) 963-6511.

Taste of Fall
Oct. 17-18, Elizabeth City
Exotic cuisine sampling highlighting locally grown produce. Dressing the Scarecrow Contest and pumpkin carving. Farmers Market. 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. Free. (919) 338-3954.

Army Reunion
Oct. 17-19, Raleigh
Members of "A" Battery, 10 Artillery, 105 Howitzer Battalion, celebrate the 40th anniversary of their first gathering. North Raleigh Hilton. Contact Hall ("Deac") Beasley, 213 Ransome Drive, Plymouth, NC 27962. (919) 793-2668.

Fall Quilt Retreat
Oct. 17-19, Boone
ASU Broyhill Inn. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. (704) 262-3045.

Lake Eden Arts Festival
Oct. 17-19, Black Mountain
Juried art fair, music and dance. Dance, poetry, and healing arts workshops. Storytelling, drumming, children's programs, jam sessions. Continuous music on four stages. Camp Rockmont. Weekend adult (includes camping) $70 at gate; children 10 and under free. Cabins available. (704) 68-MUSIC.

Bluegrass/Gospel Show
Oct. 18, Albermarle
Lewis Family, Hatley Family, Hatley Sweethearts, Bluegrass Special. Stanly County Agri-Civic Center. 7 p.m. (704) 485-8833.

Hillbilly Comedy and Variety Show
Oct. 18, Sparta
Grand Ole' Opry Impersonators and Hillbilly Music. Sparta Elementary School Auditorium. 7 p.m. Adult $5; under 12 free. (910) 372-7284.

Holly Arts and Crafts Festival
Oct. 18, Pinehurst
More than 150 exhibitors. Crafts, food, entertainment and more. Village of Pinehurst. 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. (910) 295-5524.

A Day on Main Street
Oct. 18, Ramseur
Arts, crafts, live entertainment, children's games and rides. Vendors may rent booth space until Oct. 16. (910) 824-4488.

Orchestra and Pianist Perform
Oct. 22, Chapel Hill
The Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra, featuring internationally-acclaimed piano soloist Misha Dichter, will perform as part of Carolina Union's Performing Arts Series. Memorial Hall, UNC campus. 8 p.m. For tickets call (919) 962-1449.

Art Exhibit
Oct. 21-26, Sanford
33rd annual exhibit hosted by The Sanford Brush & Palette Club. Members display about 500 works covering wide range of subject matter and media. National Guard Armory. Oct. 21-25, 10 a.m.- 8 p.m.; Oct. 26, 1- 5 p.m.

Albemarle Craftman's Fair
Oct. 24-26, Elizabeth City
Traditional crafts for sale in 45 booths. Quilting, musical instruments, wood crafts, tinware, pottery, stained glass, and weaving. Knobbs Creek Recreation Center. $3. (919) 771-5441.

Historic Ghost Walk
Oct. 24-25, Elizabeth City
Evening entertainment with skits in 8 historic houses. Southern style supper at First Baptist Church Gospel choir concerts at the Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church. 5- 9 p.m. both days. Advance tickets $8; tour day $10. Group rates available. (800) 678-1669.

Historic Ghost Walk
Oct. 24-25, New Bern
See and hear ghostly tales of celebrities in homes in downtown historic district. Stroll through Cedar Grove Cemetery. 5- 9 p.m. nightly Advance tickets $11. To order, send check to New Bern Historical Society, PO Box 119, New Bern, NC 28563. (919) 638-8558.

Festival By the Sea
Oct. 24-26, Holden Beach
Arts and crafts show featuring work of more than160 crafts persons. International foods from over 30 vendors. U.S. Marine concert band, local cloggers. Halloween party Friday night and street dance Saturday night. (910) 842-4939.

Fall Harvest Days
Oct. 24-26, Arden
Corn milling, apple cider press, gas engines, tractor pulls, blacksmithing, gas & steam engines exhibits. Over 700 exhibitors. Western NC Agricultural Center. (704) 891-3223.

Fall Festival
Oct. 25, Farmville
Kid's tractor pull, antique cars and tractors, flea market, battle re-enactment, auction, petting zoo, all day gospel music, food. Wesley Methodist Church. 7 a.m. until. (919) 753-2700.

The Haunted Forest
Oct. 27-31, Elizabeth City
Staged by the Elizabeth City Jaycees to give you permanent goosebumps. Jaycees Fairground. Dusk to 11 p.m., Monday - Thursday; dusk to midnight, Friday. $4. Group rates for 20 or more. (919) 426-5555.

Bloody Reign of the Mad Miner

Oct. 29-31, Stanfield
"Haunted" mine tour, hayride to historic Mansion Hill, magic of Chaz and ghostly tales around a campfire. Reed Gold Mine. 7- 11 p.m. $2 donation for each activity. (704) 786-8337.

Gatekeeper's House Art Show

Oct. 31- Nov. 2, Asheboro
Painting exhibition and sale. Pottery, woodworks, festival decorations, dried herb & wildflower arrangements, jewelry. Historic Gatekeepers House. Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.; Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Free. (919) 742-3325.

A Night of Bluegrass

Nov. 1, Yadkinville
Featuring The New Coon Creek Girls and The Long & Pardue Band. 7 p.m. Yadkinville Elementary School. Adults $10. Children under 10 free. (910) 679-7041.

Animal Fiber Fair

Nov. 1-2, Winston-Salem
See and touch animals and learn how their coats are made into garments and artwork. Dixie Classic Fairgrounds. Adults $2; 12 and under free. (910) 676-8742.

Festival of the Dogs

Nov. 1, Franklinville
Civil War reenactments, stained glass artwork, cheese making, horse shoeing, soap making, saw milling, sheep dog exhibitions, traditional foods and games. Riverside Park. 10 a.m. (910) 824-2604.

Iredell-Statesville Coin Club

Nov. 1, Statesville
Door prizes. Drawing for $5 gold Liberty at 5 p.m. Coin, jewelry and card show. Free coin appraisals. National Guard Armory. Free. (704) 873-8002.

Ongoing Events

On The Waterfront

Through Oct. 11, Beaufort
A photographic tribute to Bogue Sound and Bogue Banks by photographer Karen Baggott. Exhibit of color prints and sepia tones. North Carolina Maritime Museum. Weekdays, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.; Sundays, 1- 5 p.m. Free. (919) 728-7317.

Student Landscapes Exhibition

through Oct. 31, Raleigh
North Carolina Museum of Art presents Landscape Paintings by North Carolina Students, a collection of paintings created by elementary, middle and high school students. Sept. 28, free public reception in education lobby, from 2 –4 p.m. Tuesday- Saturday, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.; Friday, until 9 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Monday. Free. (919) 839-6262.

Exhibition

Oct. 4- Nov. 15, Valdese
Computer Art Installation by Stu Casper. Rock School Gallery in Old Rock School. Open daily. 704) 495-7736.

Carolina Renaissance Festival

Oct. 4- Nov. 16, weekends only
A re-creation of a 16th century European market-fair. Ten acre Festival Village with music, dance, comedy, food and drink, craft exhibits, demonstrations, people-powered ridges, animal shows and an action theater production re-creating Medieval joustling tournaments. Located between Concord and Davidson, centered between I-77 and I-85 on Highway 73 at Poplar Tent Road. 10 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. Adults $9.95; children (5-12) with advance tickets available at Harris Teeter $3.95; children under 5 free. (704) 896-5544.

Potter Exhibition

through Dec. 7, Raleigh
Exhibition of nationally recognized North Carolina potter, Mark Hewitt. Visual Arts Center at NC State University. Wednesday- Friday, 12- 8 p.m.; Saturday – Sunday, 2- 8 p.m.; Closed Monday & Tuesday. Free. (919) 515-3503.

Deadlines:
Dec. issue .....Oct. 25
Jan. issue .....Nov. 23
Feb, issue.....Dec. 23

Send notices to
Carolina Country
P.O. Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611

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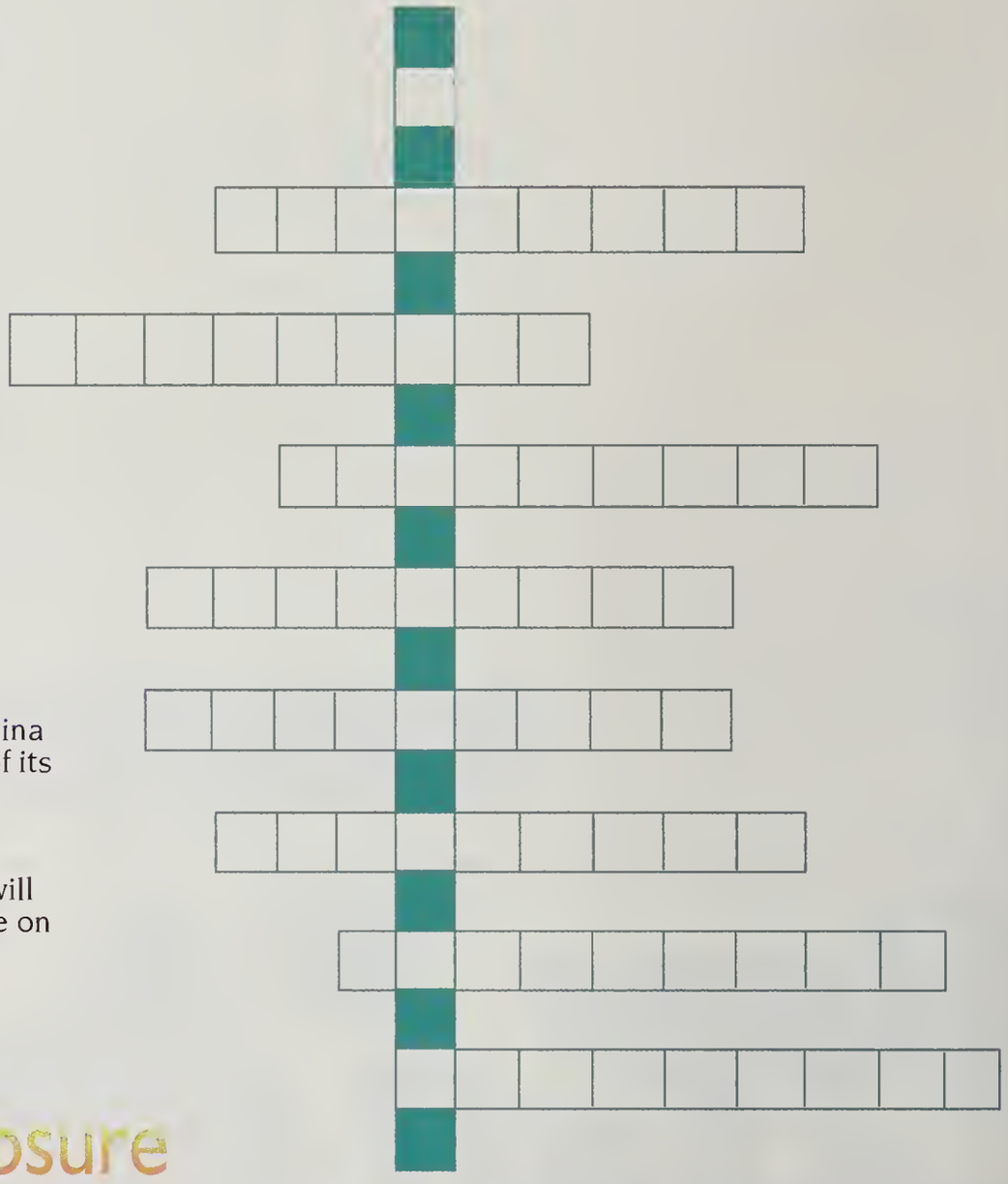
Sign Up!

Alexander
Alleghany
Brunswick
Cleveland
Currituck
Edgecombe
Granville
Henderson

Each of the eight North Carolina counties above has a place of its own on the signpost at right.

When all eight are properly placed, one of the counties will be spelled out a second time on the post itself – vertically.



Southern Exposure

Teenager Andrea Brooks had a ready answer when she was called into her principal's office in Burnsville for violating the school dress code by wearing a sleeveless T-shirt.

"I am exercising my second-amendment right," she quipped, "–to bare arms." Unable to keep from laughing, the principal excused her.

Lazarus Fels, a native of Bavaria, was one of the most successful men ever to live in Caswell County. Fels moved to Yanceyville in 1855, took over a leading general store, and later became postmaster.

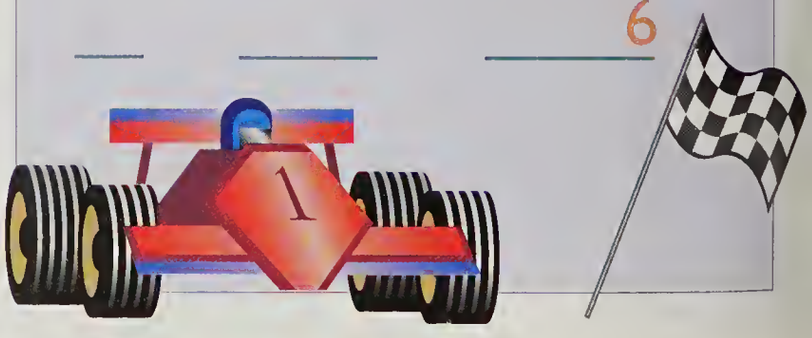
After the Civil Was he moved to Baltimore, completely broke, to start life anew. At his death, he left forty million dollars. He gave his name to Fels Naptha Soap.

A Car Race

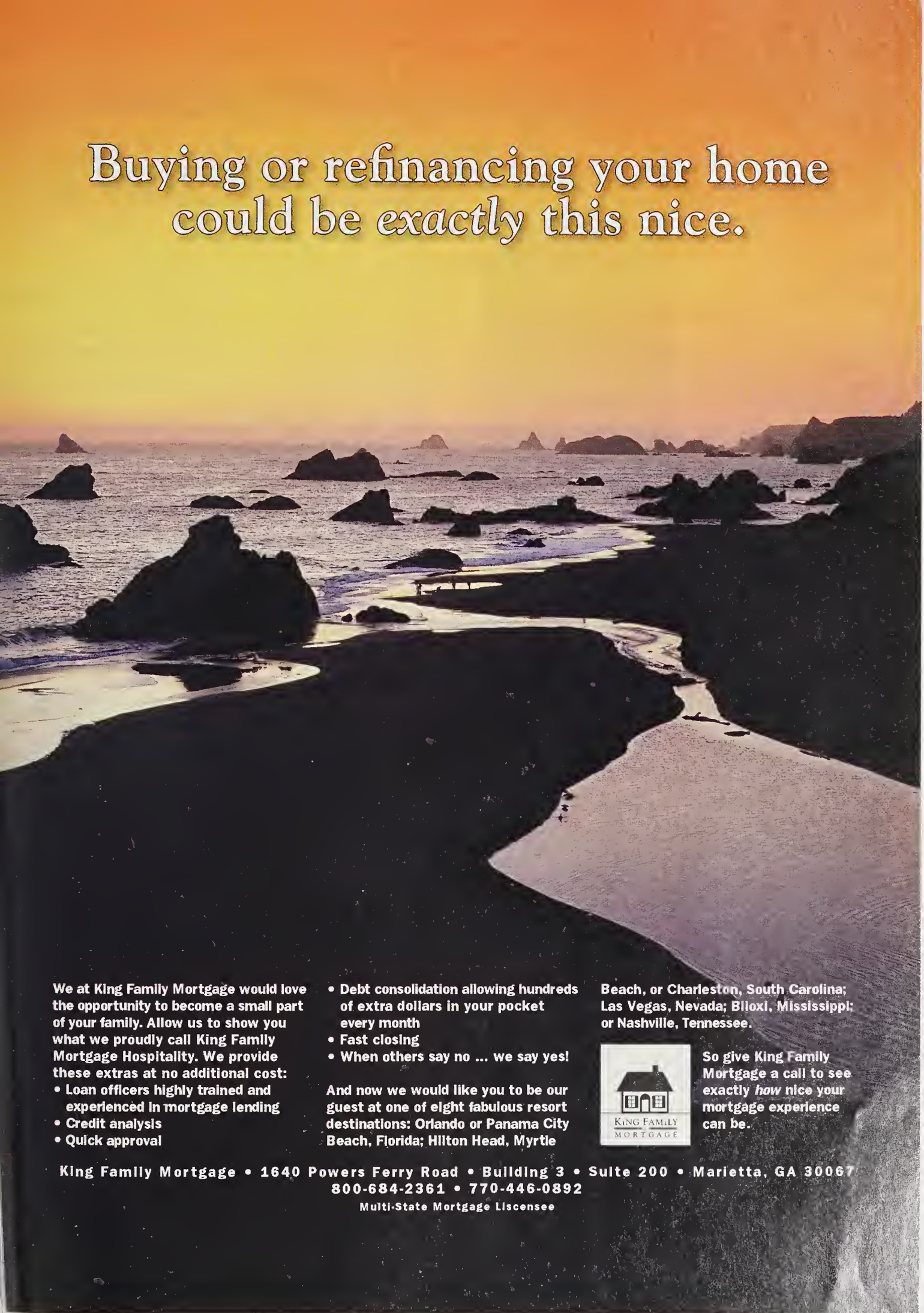
Letters have been subsituted for numerals in this equation. If E = 6, can you replace the missing numerals?

A x CAR = RACE

6



Answers on page 38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Go Electric

A buyer's guide
by Sharon O'Malley

First impressions are important, even at home. Light your front stoop in style with an elegant lantern reminiscent of a time gone by.

Porch lights

This guide is for informational purposes only and not intended as an endorsement by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives.

1 Arts & crafts.

Inspired by lanterns lighting old English castles, the European Country Lantern evokes images from the early European Arts & Crafts movement. With a steeply pitched roof and tapered proportions, the lantern is constructed of solid brass and is available in a variety of finishes, including aged copper verdigris patina (shown). Select from four mounting styles: wall mount, ceiling hung, post or column mount. Available exclusively through the Brass Light Gallery catalog for around $235. Call 800-243-9595 to order or request a catalog.

2 Weather beater.

Two candelabra bulbs peek through beveled glass panels on this solid brass, chain-hung lantern by Progress Lighting. Designed specifically for outdoor use, this durable porch lantern (model P5527-25) sports an acid verde finish, which does not tarnish as quickly as polished brass. It's also available as a pole-top lantern (post is sold separately). You'll find both in lighting showrooms and electrical supply stores starting at $230. Call 864-599-6000.

3 Double duty.

Intelectron's cast aluminum porch lights are both fancy and functional. Model BC939 (shown) conceals a motion detecto that senses movement up to 30 feet away. Two-level lightin allows you to dim the candelabra bulbs for overnight burning, but they will brighten to full capacity if motion is detec ed. Five designs are available in black, white and verdigris, You can find them in home centers and hardware stores for around $60. Call 510-732-6790 to locate a dealer near you.

4 Rejuvenated.

It looks like an antique, but it's on the cutting edge of outdoor lighting. Rejuvenation Lamp & Fixture Co.'s Westmoreland is an authentic reproduction of a provincial style porch light. Designed for outdoor, damp-location use it can be adapted and wired for energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs. It's shown with gold-white art glass in ar antique pewter finish. Available by mail order only for around $160. Call 888-3-GETLIT for a catalog of more than 260 styles, including Victorian, Arts & Crafts and Neoclassi fixtures.

5 Better than brass.

Tiffany and seeded glass help diffuse the light produced a single bulb inside this die-cast aluminum outdoor wall bracket from Thomas Lighting. Its white-and-tan finish, called ledgestone, is a popular alternative to traditional polished brass, which can tarnish when mounted outdoo Model M5201-33 (shown) is also available in a tile bronze finish. Look for it in lighting, electrical supply and hardwa stores for around $110. Or order by phone: 800-825-5844.

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NON-SMOKER RATES

MONTHLY RATES

Issue Age	$50,000 Male	$50,000 Female	$100,000 Male	$100,000 Female	$250,000 Male	$250,000 Female	$500,000 Male	$500,000 Female
20	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
21	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
22	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
23	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
24	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
25	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
26	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
27	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
28	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
29	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
30	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
31	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
32	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
33	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
34	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
35	8.34	8.34	12.50	12.50	25.00	25.00	45.84	45.84
36	8.38	8.34	12.59	12.50	25.21	25.00	46.25	45.84
37	8.42	8.34	12.67	12.50	25.42	25.00	46.67	45.84
38	8.46	8.34	12.75	12.50	25.63	25.00	47.09	45.84
39	8.50	8.34	12.84	12.50	25.84	25.00	47.50	45.84
40	8.55	8.38	12.92	12.59	26.05	25.21	47.92	46.25
41	8.59	8.42	13.00	12.67	26.25	25.42	48.34	46.67
42	8.65	8.46	13.09	12.75	26.46	25.63	48.75	47.08
43	8.67	8.50	13.17	12.84	26.67	25.84	49.17	47.50

MONTHLY RATES

Issue Age	$50,000 Male	$50,000 Female	$100,000 Male	$100,000 Female	$250,000 Male	$250,000 Female	$500,000 Male	$500,000 Female
44	8.71	8.55	13.25	12.92	26.88	26.05	49.59	47.92
45	8.75	8.59	13.34	13.00	27.09	26.25	50.00	48.34
46	8.96	8.65	13.75	13.09	28.13	26.46	52.09	48.75
47	9.38	8.67	14.59	13.17	30.21	26.67	56.25	49.17
48	9.80	8.71	15.42	13.25	32.30	26.88	60.42	49.59
49	10.21	8.75	16.25	13.34	34.38	27.09	64.59	50.00
50	10.63	8.96	17.09	13.75	36.46	28.13	68.75	52.09
51	11.05	9.38	17.92	14.59	38.55	30.21	72.92	56.25
52	11.46	9.80	18.75	15.42	40.63	32.30	77.09	60.42
53	12.09	10.21	20.00	16.25	43.75	34.38	83.34	64.59
54	12.71	10.63	21.25	17.09	46.88	36.46	89.59	68.75
55	13.55	11.05	22.92	17.92	51.05	38.55	97.92	72.92
56	14.38	11.46	24.59	18.75	55.21	40.63	106.25	77.09
57	15.21	12.09	26.25	20.00	59.38	43.75	114.59	83.34
58	16.05	12.71	27.92	21.25	63.55	46.88	122.92	89.59
59	17.09	13.55	30.00	22.92	68.75	51.05	133.34	97.92
60	22.09	14.38	40.00	24.59	93.75	55.21	183.34	106.25
61	23.13	15.21	42.09	26.25	98.96	59.38	193.75	114.59
62	24.17	16.05	44.17	27.92	104.17	63.55	204.17	122.92
63	25.42	17.09	46.67	30.00	110.42	68.75	216.67	133.34
64	26.67	22.09	49.17	40.00	116.67	93.75	229.17	183.34
65	28.13	23.13	52.09	42.09	123.96	98.96	243.75	193.75
66-75	RATES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST							

Other amounts available upon request. Premiums are based on applicant's age at issuance of policy. Policies are non-cancellable as long as premiums are paid. Premiums may be paid annually, semi-annually and monthly bank draft only. (A no-cost medical exam may be required depending on age, health or amount of coverage desired). Policies above are annual renewable and convertible term. Policy Form No. L-ORD-5101-91. Level Death Benefit to age 85. Premiums increase annually. Underwritten by United Services Life Insurance Company, Arlington, VA 22203. Established in 1937. Over $21 Billion of Life Insurance in Force as of 12/31/95. Death Benefit payable for Natural or Accidental Death. NOT AVAILABLE IN ALL STATES.

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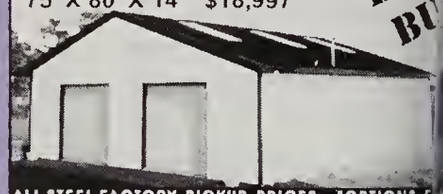

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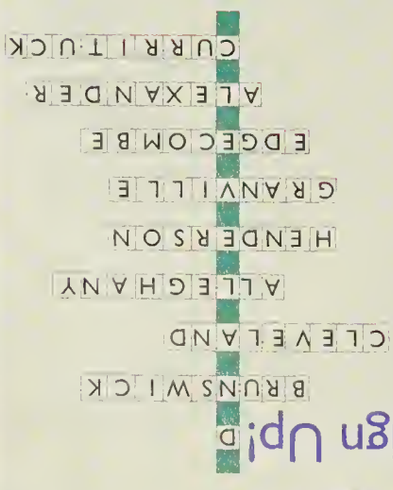

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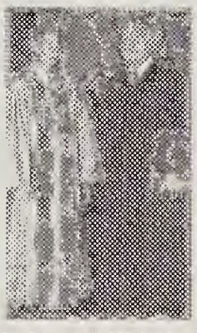

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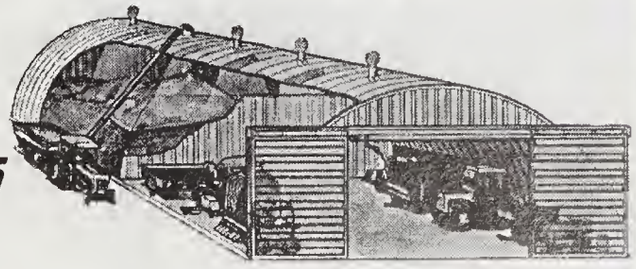

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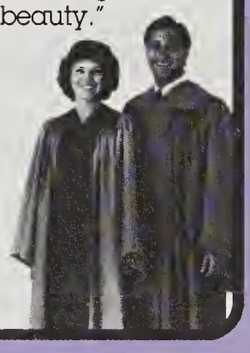

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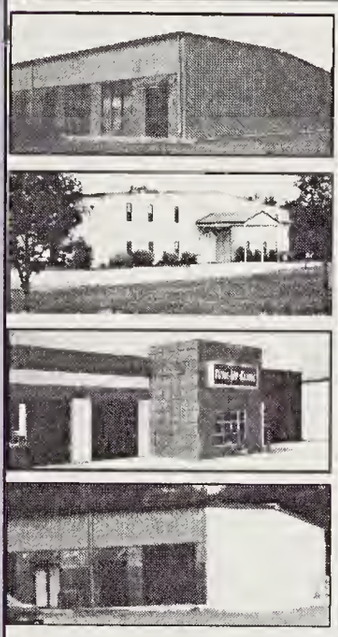

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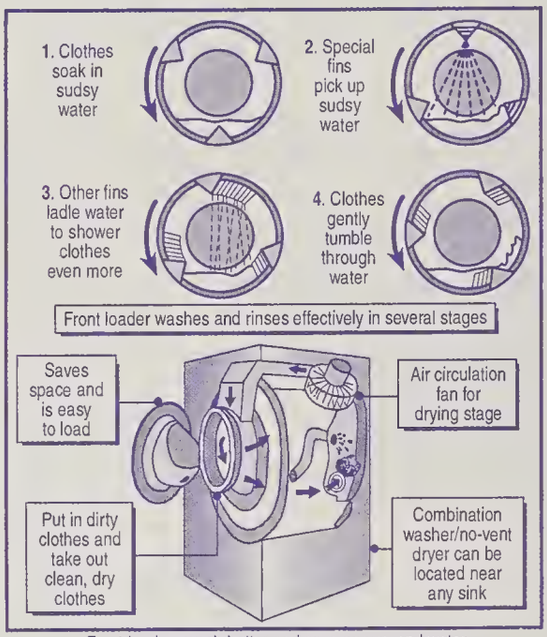
Making Cents of Your Electric Bill

by James Dulley

Front-loading washers hang the competition out to dry

Front-loading washers (horizontal tub axis) are heads above top-loaders (vertical tub axis with an agitator) in cleaning and rinsing, and in energy, water and detergent savings. These super-efficient washers have been used in Europe for many years (and imported into the U.S.), and now more American manufacturers are also making them.

Using a front-loader can save a typical family of four at least $100 per year in energy, water and detergent costs. For example, large capacity American-made front-loading washers use 40% less water, 65% less energy and 30% less detergent than typical large capacity top-loaders. They also save floor space because you can stack the dryer on top of the washer.


1. Clothes soak in sudsy water
2. Special fins pick up sudsy water
3. Other fins ladle water to shower clothes even more
4. Clothes gently tumble through water
Front loader washes and rinses effectively in several stages
Saves space and is easy to load
Air circulation fan for drying stage
Put in dirty clothes and take out clean, dry clothes
Combination washer/no-vent dryer can be located near any sink
Front loaders wash better and save energy and water

Another energy-saving benefit is shorter drying time — 30% less than with a standard top-loader. Front-loading washers have adjustable spin speeds, up to a very fast 1,600 rpm (rotations per minute), to remove as much as 94% of water from the wet clothes. Several designs also use a microprocessor-controlled soft-start spin cycle. It starts slowly to allow the wet clothes to evenly distribute themselves for vibration-free spinning.

This high-speed spin is also an advantage for people with detergent-sensitive skin, since it removes nearly all detergent residue too. Some of the top-of-the-line models have an extra fourth and fifth-rinse feature for people with extra-sensitive skin and for use with special fabrics.

The entire washing and rinsing process is different with a front-loader. The drum spins on a horizontal axis and needs no agitator. This creates more room for large quilts, parkas, etc. and treats clothes more gently for a longer life. The fabrics are not beat against the agitator thousands of times each washing cycle. The more thorough rinsing also improves the life and appearance of the clothes.

In a front-loader, clothes are gently tumbled and lifted in and out of the water as the drum rotates. Scooping fins in the drum are designed to ladle the sudsy water to the top and let it shower down through the fabrics. For washing woolen clothes and other delicate fabrics, snap in an optional wool rack that gently rocks the clothes through the water instead of tumbling them.

Many front-loaders have built-in water heating elements to fine tune the wash and rinse temperatures. This allows you to save additional energy by setting your water heater temperature lower, yet still have effective hot water washing when needed. Several designs offer cold water hook-up only for simpler installation.

Some models automatically determine how much water is needed for the specific load of laundry and have up to nine washing/temperature cycles. You can select the most efficient settings. Detergent, bleach and softener are introduced automatically at the proper times.

Miele uses a unique microprocessor-controlled hydromatic washing action. The drum rotates at a slow 40 rpm for 5.5 seconds in the sudsing stage. It stops for four seconds to let the clothes soak in the sudsy water. Next, it speeds up to 55 rpm for 5.5 seconds in the washing stage. This cycle continuously repeats throughout the wash cycle.

Space and timesaving combination front loading washer/dryers are available. These do both the washing and drying, from start to finish, in the same unit. Put the dirty clothes in the combination unit, add the detergent and take out clean dry clothes at the end of the cycle. These are very popular in Europe.

There are also portable models on casters available that use a non-outdoor venting condensing drying process. This process pulls the moisture out of the clothes, condenses it and collects it in a small pan. Slide out the condensate pan and empty it at the end of the cycle. It also has a built-in water-heating element so only cold water is needed. With a faucet adapter kit, it can be used anywhere in your house that has a sink nearby.

Write for Update No. 651 - buyer's guide of 15 new front-loader, top-loader and combination washer/dryers, load capacities, speeds, cycles, features, prices and operating costs. Please include $2.00 and a business-size self-addressed stamped envelope and mail to James Dulley, Carolina Country, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244.

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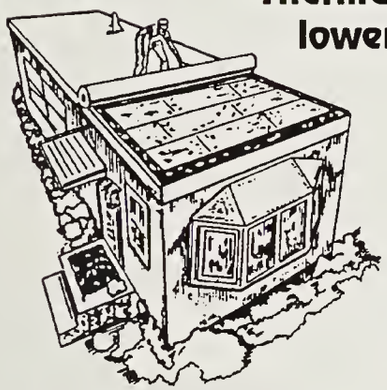

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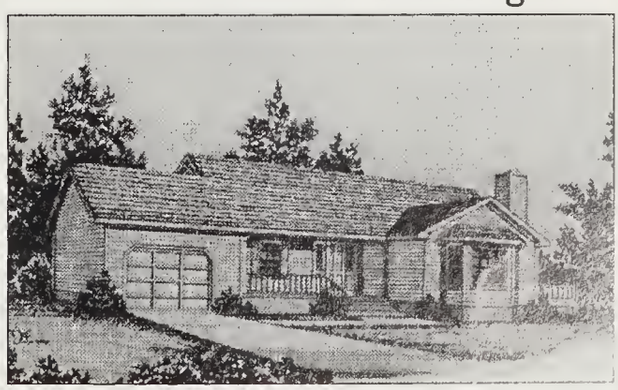

Freedom Family Homes
"We Build On Your Lot"

Hank's Gardening Guide

by Hank Smith

Shorter days and cooler weather signal that it's time to plant next spring's flowering bulbs, and to protect tender plants from cold weather. It's a good time to catch up on neglected plant maintenance. Remove dead wood from diseased or damaged trees, shrubs, and vines. Consider reserving areas for seasonal color accents from bedding plants. The fastest way to achieve autumn color in an area is to bring in chrysanthemums. Either dig plants in the flowerbed and plant in new spots, or purchase well-budded flowering mums growing in containers at a nursery. Since many outdoor gardening activities are slowed down by cooler weather, take this time to clean up and oil garden tools to get them in top condition for use in the spring. See that lawnmower blades are sharpened, rust is removed from pruners, and that any leaking garden hose is repaired.

Pruning at transplanting time

Newly transplanted evergreens will better overcome the shock of digging and moving if top growth is pruned lightly. Cutting away some of the top helps compensate for the inevitable damage done to roots. It is almost impossible to dig and transplant an evergreen without causing some transplanting shock.

Winter cold aids vegetables

Plow the vegetable plot and let it lie fallow over winter. Don't smooth soil down after plowing or disking – let it lie rough for maximum exposure. Winter freezes kill insects and their larvae, putting soil in good tilth for spring planting.

Pansy time

The pansy is undoubtedly the most popular cool season garden flower. Its versatility, easy culture, and early and abundant flowering make it worthy of this popularity. Locate pansy beds either in full sun or partial shade. Spread a few inches of organic matter such as peat moss, compost or leaf mold, and a small amount of complete fertilizer over the entire bed. Spade to an eight to ten inch depth, mixing well. Make certain the bed drains well, since pansies are susceptible to several crown and root rot diseases which are encouraged by "wet-feet." When buying, choose healthy, fresh plants with at least five strong leaves. Space six to eight inches apart, and plant no deeper than they previously grew. Water and cover lightly with a mulch of pinestraw or peat moss. Every three to four weeks apply a complete fertilizer to encourage large blooms on sturdy stems. Pansies should be planted in October or November for rewards of flowers later in the winter. Sometimes a mild spell in winter will produce some blooms. Plants decline with the arrival of warm weather.

Hibiscus

Chinese hibiscus must be protected from freezes. Those growing in-ground outside should be cut back, dug, potted, and brought in the sunniest of rooms. Flowers will be less abundant during cool months, but plants will be protected for use outside again next spring.

Lily–of–the–Valley

It's time to begin planting lily-of-the-valley pips for bloom next summer. This ever-popular garden perennial, which can be used as groundcover, grows best in shady spots. If old plantings have become crowded, they should be dug, divided, and reset in freshly prepared rich soil.

Rose care

Head back any roses that have become tall and leggy. This is not the annual major pruning that the plants should receive in late winter; it's merely a topping operation to protect plants from damage caused by strong winter winds. Prepare beds now for planting bare root roses that will soon be available. Select an open spot that receives at least six hours of sun each day, enjoys good drainage, and suffers no competition from tree roots. Roses respond best in a rich, porous, slightly acid soil that is supplied with additional plant food during each month that the plants are in active growth.

Rooting cuttings

Most flowering shrubs can be propagated through hardwood cuttings taken in October. Make cuttings of mature wood, eight to ten inches long. Cut just beneath a stem joint, below where a leaf is attached to the stem. Set in rich garden soil, leaving about two inches above the ground. Or you can place cuttings in a large tin can with drainage holes. To cut down on the stress placed on the newly formed roots, use scissors to cut off about a half of each leaf. Remove leaves from stems that are planted beneath the soil.

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Carolina Kitchen

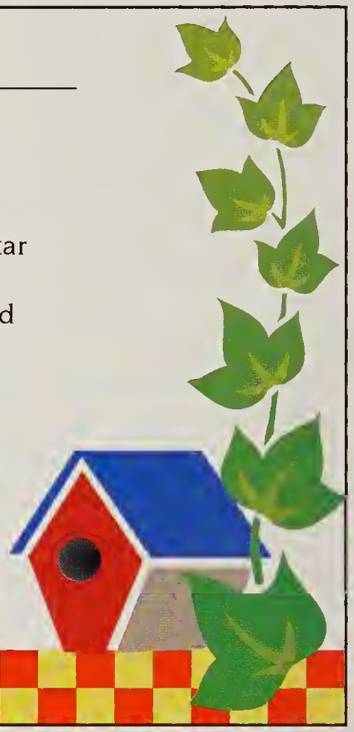
by Monica Russell

Recipe — Cornflake-Pecan Cookies

Submitted by Florence C. Ellis, Fort Myers, FL

4 sticks margarine, softened
2 cups white sugar
3 cups flour (unsifted)
2 teaspoons baking soda
2 teaspoons cream of tartar
2 teaspoons vanilla
4 cups cornflakes, crushed
2 cups chopped pecans

Cream margarine and add sugar. Sift dry ingredients and add to creamed mixture. Fold in cornflakes and nuts. Refrigerate until firm and form into balls. Flatten with glass dipped in sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 minutes or until slightly browned.



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The Big Book of Health Tips"

(By Frank K. Wood)

C&A, a Peachtree City, rgia, publisher, announced ay the release of a new 400- book for the general pub- "*The Big Book of Health Ti*." In their book, the au- s claim many health bene- with full explanations.

- Why women need chocolate.
- Help fall asleep 10 minutes ster and sleep one hour nger. This book offers sweet st and sweet dreams for the eary!
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- These women gained strength d bone mass, and adopted a re active life-style" — oving again that life begins 50! Find out how in this ok.
- aise a glass to this news! search scientists now con- n — wine may protect you m food-borne germs.
- n apple a day keeps the tor away ... but oh, what a nato a day can do! This vs will send droves of men he produce counter and the ned goods aisle.
- njoying 1, 2, even as many a glasses of this beverage a may dramatically reduce r risk of heart disease and ke.
- searchers are confirming powers of this spice in ing to prevent breast can- and other cancer forms. l out how much in *"The Book of Health Tips."*
- gar makes kids hyper, t? Not true, says this new arch ... and that's one less g to worry about!
- uld this natural cure be last headache remedy ll ever need?
- at new treatment just s wonders," the 72-year- patient told his doctor. "I 100 percent better be- the pain's nearly gone." t new pain remedy!
- t home remedies to ban- eel pain.
- p prevent 40% of all es and heart attacks suf- by American men with daily doses of this sim- tamin.
- Those funny little words your doctor writes on your prescription slips — is it all Greek to you? Actually, it's Latin. How to break the code.
- Confusion in the elderly is not always caused by senility or Alzheimer's. Often, it's their medication! Find out how to tell the difference.
- Which antacids are best against heartburn — liquids or tablets? Surprise answer in the book.
- Read about the surprising, just-discovered protective powers of aspirin ... still a wonder drug after all these years!
- Best news ever on prostate cancer! For many men, this news means no surgery and no unpleasant side effects.
- Folks over 55 have two reasons to take this potent vitamin. It strengthens muscles and immunity.
- Acute bronchitis requires strong medicine, right? Not always — research shows that this vitamin — yes, vitamin — greatly aids healing.
- Nip insomnia in the bud with these restful remedies ... before it becomes a chronic problem.
- Can't find your glasses? Always hunting for your keys? Research at one famous university says a glass of this beverage improves memory in adults.
- This natural therapy is more effective in relieving depression than medication. And without the side effects of anti-psychotic drugs.
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- Why do so many healthy people have heart attacks? A common deficiency of one key vitamin may be the answer.
- Beans are very, very good for you. Economical, too! Now enjoy them without embarrassing side effects.
- How to pick a moisturizer that does the most good for your skin ... and the least damage to your wallet.
- Wake up your senses, rejuvenate your skin by adding low-cost items from your pantry to your bath water.
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(By J. Robson)

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